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ASEAN Ministers To Discuss U.S. Cambodia Policy

BK2107070090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0628 GMT 21 Jul 90

[By Bhimanto Suwastoyo]

[Text] Jakarta, July 21 (AFP)—A new U.S. policy on Cambodia has put the regional issue high on the agenda of a ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to kick off here Tuesday [24 July], analysts said. The impact of Washington's decision Wednesday to withdraw recognition of the Cambodian resistance coalition's seat at the United Nations needs to be rapidly assessed by ASEAN, which bases its policy on the endorsement of the tripartite resistance.

The ASEAN standing committee chairman, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, said here Thursday the U.S. move will be discussed thoroughly in the group's ministerial meeting and with ministers from leading western nations.

Ministers of the ASEAN countries—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—are due to start two days of talks Tuesday. The discussions will be followed with a series of meetings with their six "dialogue partners"—Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States.

Senior ASEAN officials, who started talks here Friday to prepare the ground for the ministerial meeting, have already managed to sum up a common stand on the U.S. move, delegation sources said Saturday.

Washington withdrew its support of the Cambodian coalition citing fears of a return to power of the Khmer Rouge, the group's strongest faction blamed for the genocide of Cambodians during a four-year rule from 1975 to 1979. The coalition also include the non-communist factions respectively led by former monarch Norodom Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann.

Although not yet a thorough evaluation of the impact the U.S. decision could have on peace process, ASEAN believed Washington's policy reversal could only undermine the credibility of peaceful negotiation and favor military solutions, the sources said. Mr. Alatas said Thursday "we in ASEAN honestly doubt whether at the current stage of negotiations the U.S. move would help efforts towards a settlement acceptable to all."

In a commentary Saturday, the English-language JAKARTA POST stressed the need for the formulation of a common policy goal on Cambodia and added that it would be "no longer appropriate" for the ministers to come out of the meeting "with an ambiguous position."

An Indonesian Foreign Ministry official, who declined to be named, said ASEAN has "plenty of time to study the U.S. move and decide on a common stand. We are under no time pressure." He said that the United Nations requested the support of a large majority at the general assembly before withdrawing the membership of any member country.

However, a western diplomat here said a clear ASEAN position was urgently needed, not only because it could affect the next U.N. General Assembly due in September, but also because it could provide a reference for other countries to decide on their own stand.

ASEAN has been in the forefront of regional and international efforts to seek a settlement to the 11-year-old conflict in Cambodia and has in the past years sponsored U.N. resolutions on Cambodia.

The diplomat said that the recent developments presented ASEAN "with an opportunity to review its stance and weed out past differences within the group for good."

Premier Chatchai Chunhawan of Thailand, an ASEAN member which has been actively developing closer ties with Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh government, said the U.S. move supported his view that Cambodian solution should involve all warring factions, including Phnom Penh.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew said Friday the U.S. policy shift was "a dangerous precedent" and could prompt more fighting in Cambodia. THE STRAITS TIMES daily, which generally reflects the government's view, said it "might result in handing Vietnam an indirect victory."

Mr. Alatas has said the ministerial meeting and the series of dialogues afterwards would be "a good time to talk about Cambodia" because "if it goes on like now, the (Cambodian peace) efforts will continue to drift aimlessly."

Wong Kan Seng To Attend

BK2207142890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Singapore, July 22 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng will attend the 23rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and Post-Ministerial Conferences in Jakarta from July 24 to 29, a ministry statement said Sunday.

It said the meeting of foreign ministers from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, which make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), will review the association's activities and external relations over the past year and lay down guidelines for the next year. Among major topics to be discussed are the latest developments on the Cambodia issue, especially in light of a shift in the U.S. position on the issue.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced in Paris on Wednesday that Washington was withdrawing its support for the Cambodian resistance coalition's seat at the United Nations and would open a dialogue with Vietnam on Cambodia.

The U.S. decision to withdraw recognition was described by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew as "a dangerous precedent" and a "puzzling move" in a recent interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

Other likely topics include developments in Central and Eastern Europe, the ministry said.

The ASEAN foreign ministers will meet jointly and separately with their counterparts from the six dialogue partners—Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States—at the Post-Ministerial Conferences held after the ASEAN meeting. They are likely to discuss the latest developments in East-West relations, Cambodia, progress towards European economic integration and economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Wong will be accompanied by two ministers of state and senior officials.

Draft Statement Finalized

BK2307011890 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jul 90 p 1

[By Suphaphon Kanwirayothin in Jakarta]

[Text] ASEAN foreign ministers are expected to pledge continued support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the non-communist Cambodian resistance despite the U.S. decision to withhold recognition from the resistance.

The draft text of a statement outlining their stand was finalised by senior ASEAN officials who have been meeting in Jakarta since Thursday to prepare for the annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, which starts here tomorrow.

The ministers will assemble for a working dinner tonight to consider the statement, which contains two messages—that ASEAN does not want the Khmer Rouge to take power through military might, and that ASEAN would continue supporting the non-communist resistance even if others abandon it, informed sources said.

The ASEAN statement on Cambodia is expected to come out on the first day of the meeting.

The ASEAN foreign ministers, including ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila, are due to arrive in Jakarta today for the two-day annual meeting.

The statement would not directly address the U.S. about-face on support for the tripartite resistance coalition in the United Nations, but is expected to convey an ASEAN consensus on the Cambodian issue in a "non-confrontational" manner, an informed source said.

ASEAN's stand on the Khmer Rouge is similar to that of the U.S., but while Washington "yanked the rug out from under the non-communists" by withdrawing support for their claim to the UN seat due to their affiliation with the Khmer Rouge, ASEAN will continue supporting Prince Sihanouk and the non-communists, the source said.

"ASEAN has no special affection for the Khmer Rouge, but unlike the U.S., we will still support the Prince and the non-communists. This has been our position for over a decade, which we have to reassert at this crucial moment," said one ASEAN diplomat.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL reported that the statement also warns that the U.S. shift could further isolate the Khmer Rouge and harden their determination to achieve victory on the battlefield rather than at the negotiating table.

Another source told the POST that while reaffirming the comprehensive solution principle, the statement would also project "ASEAN's new flexibility" in adjusting to developments.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said yesterday he "fully understood" the domestic pressures that prompted the U.S. policy shift.

While agreeing with the U.S. move to open a dialogue with Vietnam and Phnom Penh to accelerate a settlement, Minister Alatas still doubted that Cambodia's UN seat should be left vacant.

"At this very delicate stage of the negotiations, I doubt such a move would help advance the peace process.

"I want to be further persuaded as to how vacating the seat would help the peace talks," he told reporters yesterday.

Mr Alatas added he has not yet heard from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who will meet ASEAN's ministers during the Post-Ministerial dialogue.

Japan

Government Spokesman on U.S. Cambodia Decision

OW2007131690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Japan will reserve judgment on the U.S. decision Wednesday to withdraw its support for the Cambodian resistance coalition's seat in the United Nations, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said Friday.

The spokesman told reporters that Japan will steer a cautious course on the issue until it has a chance to sound out the views of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during the latter's talks with Japan and five other "dialogue partners" in Jakarta on July 27-29. But Watanabe added that Japan welcomes at the same time the new U.S. willingness to engage in talks with Vietnam to search for a settlement to the prolonged conflict in Cambodia.

Referring to the U.N. representation issue, Watanabe said without elaboration that there are "various possibilities." Watanabe was believed to be referring to the prospect of the establishment of a supreme national council (SNC), uniting all the rival Cambodian factions, before the status of Cambodia's seat comes to the vote when the U.N. General Assembly reconvenes in September.

The issue would be resolved if the four factions agreed to the SNC taking over the U.N. seat on behalf of all four Cambodian factions. "Japan strongly hopes that dialogue between the United States and Vietnam will lead to the prompt establishment of the SNC," Watanabe said.

The proposed representative body is to symbolize Cambodia's sovereignty and neutrality during a post-ceasefire interim period leading to elections.

The council was to be formed within July in keeping with an agreement signed in Tokyo on June 5 by resistance coalition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh government leader Hun Sen. But the Khmer Rouge, the strongest faction in the Sihanouk-led resistance coalition, balked at the unequal number of council seats allotted to it relative to the Phnom Penh government and has refused to acquiesce to the agreement.

The U.S. policy shift on the U.N. seat, which has carried symbolic weight for the resistance forces, was prompted by growing congressional opposition to the presence of the Khmer Rouge in the international body in light of its history of genocide.

ASEAN countries, which have yet to officially react to the U.S. announcement, are among the most ardent supporters of U.N. status for the Cambodian government-in-exile. Foreign Ministry sources said Japan is keenly watching the scene in Jakarta to see what kind of consensus emerges on the issue in preliminary talks under way ahead of the ASEAN ministerial conference on July 24-25.

Miyazawa To Carry Bush Message to China

OW2307115290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—Former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that he will speak frankly to China's leaders during meetings that will include the resumption of Japan's loans to China.

Miyazawa also said at a luncheon meeting of the Japan National Press Club that President George Bush asked him to deliver a message to China's leaders about U.S. policy toward that country. According to Miyazawa who is a faction leader within the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the United States still sees China's present "attitude" as an obstacle to full implementation of most-favored-nation status. He added that Bush said China should consider the problems posed by human rights abuses such as the existence of political prisoners.

In response to a question about Japan-China relations, Miyazawa remarked that because China is a close neighbor to Japan, it is in their mutual interest to speak openly about China's issues.

The former finance minister will head his party delegation leaving Tuesday for a six-day visit sponsored by the China-Japan Friendship Association.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu announced at the annual economic summit of the seven industrialized nations, held in Houston earlier in July that Japan will gradually resume its loans to China amounting to 810 billion yen.

The American message to China will not deal with the start of negotiations between the United States and Vietnam which will take place in light of America's revised position regarding Indochina, Miyazawa said.

Miyazawa returned Sunday from leading an interparliamentary tour of the U.S. During the tour, the group of senior Japanese politicians met with President Bush and congressional leaders as well as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

As for liberalization of rice imports, Miyazawa maintains that Japan should take a more flexible attitude. The agricultural subsidies dispute between the U.S. and the European Community (EC) is now a bigger problem than the rice issues between Japan and the U.S., he said. He also said if U.S.-European negotiators agree on the conversion of import barriers from quotas to tariffs, Japan may lose a chance to play its rice card at the Uruguay Round of trade talks later this year, Miyazawa said.

U.S. Requests Help for Successful Trade Talks

OW2107014490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0020 GMT 21 Jul 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, July 20 KYODO—President George Bush's two top advisers Friday asked for Japan's help to bring a successful end to protracted multilateral trade talks known as the Uruguay Round. Secretary of State James Baker and Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter made the call in separate meetings with two multiparty delegations from the Japanese parliament, officials said. Both Baker and Yeutter raised the issue of domestic farm support in pleas for Japan to prepare for a gradual opening of the rice market, they said.

A spokesman for the Miyazawa group, led by former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, said the secretary warned that protectionism could reemerge if the sizable U.S. trade deficit with Japan persists. The spokesman, Koichi Kato of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said Baker emphasized to Miyazawa in a meeting that there is a need for the U.S. and Japan to work closely for the good of the global economy. The two nations account for 46 percent of the world's gross national product.

A senior U.S. official said Baker told the Miyazawa delegation, "if we are going to have a successful Uruguay Round, we are going to have to take care of world agriculture."

"I know that you have a problem with rice," the U.S. official quoted Baker as telling the Japanese group. Citing difficulties in getting rid of subsidies to farmers in the U.S., Japan and the European Community, Baker also said, "This is not a popular issue in Japan, it's not popular in the U.S., and it's not popular in the EC."

The U.S. is calling for an end to all export subsidies, greater access to overseas markets such as the Japanese rice market, and curbs on internal support over a period of 10 to 12 years.

The U.S. official said Baker sought Japanese help in "ensuring a successful Uruguay Round and dealing with problems of international agricultural trade."

The meeting between Yeutter and another Japanese parliamentarians' group, meanwhile, was less cordial. The leader of the group, former Agriculture Minister Michihiko Kano, told news reporters that Yeutter warned of "a potentially big price" that Japan may have to pay for its refusal to lift its near total ban on rice imports. He said Yeutter hinted that the U.S. Trade Law's Section 301 provision could be used to pry open the Japanese rice market, Kano said.

Yeutter's remark prompted the Kano delegation of rice protection lawmakers to counter that the U.S., too, would suffer if it tried to press Japan too far on the rice question, Kano said. Kano said the potential U.S. damage would include a possible drop in Japanese purchases of U.S. Treasury bills and less Japanese economic aid to developing countries. Japan currently buys about one-third of the U.S. Treasury notes during regular Treasury auctions.

A senior U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, chided both parties for exchanging harsh words, saying such talk of possible action is "premature." "There is no need to talk about what might happen in 1991 or 1992," he said. "We have an immediate problem right now which is how to make the Uruguay Round a succcess (and) how to deal with the problem of rice and sugar and everything else on an international basis."

Kano, leading the eight-member rice mission which had visited Geneva before coming to Washington, said the group's talks with U.S. trade representative Carla Hills Thursday and Yeutter on Friday made him "more pessimistic" about any resolution of the rice dispute. "We can import a lot of foodstuffs because we are self-sufficient in rice," Kano said he told Yeutter. "To the U.S., rice is a minor issue." Kano, who was agriculture minister before being replaced by Tomio Yamamoto in February, said Japan will keep sending delegations to the U.S. "until Yeutter changes his position" on rice.

Yeutter said at a news conference last week that the U.S. expects Japan to allocate more than 5 percent of its market to foreign rice. Japan's rice imports ban emerged as one of the outstanding problems between the countries earlier this month when President George Bush raised it in a meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Houston, Texas.

Global talks on agricultural reforms have been stalled, partly because of a fight between the U.S. and the EC over trade-distorting export subsidies.

Hills has warned that without a pact on farm reforms, the U.S., Japan and the EC will not win the support of many developing countries for international agreements on trade in services, intellectual property, trade-related investment and other sectors.

Government To Establish Import Body in Early Aug

OW1907194490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1351 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The government will establish an organization aimed at promoting imports early next month in accordance with an agreement at Japan-U.S. bilateral trade talks which ended last month, official sources said Thursday. The body, tentatively called the import board, will be set up in the trade conference, an interagency committee chaired by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, on August 7. The first meeting of the board is slated for this fall, the sources said.

They said the board, to be comprised of both government officials and private businessmen including foreign business executives, will meet twice a year to summarize board views and actions related to import expansion. The board will then report to the trade conference.

Japan pledged to the United States it would set up such a body in the final report of the trade talks, known as the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII). The talks were aimed at scrapping barriers to foreign trade and investment in order to improve the chronic bilateral trade imbalance.

Nakayama: Aid to USSR 'Money Down the Drain'

OW2007134090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Nagoya, July 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told an audience of local economic leaders Friday the Soviet Union needs know-how in market economics more than financial aid. Nakayama said financial aid to the Soviets "would be no more than money down the drain."

Nakayama, explaining the results of the recently concluded Houston economic summit in his address, stressed the need to "inculcate the leaders of the Soviet Union with the know-how of market economics."

Regarding Japanese financial assistance for the beleaguered Soviet economy, however, Nakayama appeared to be looking for an unmistakable statement of Japan's stance when he said it would be like "money down the drain." His choice of the expression may prove problematic as an inappropriate expression for a foreign minister, political sources said.

Nakayama explained that leaders of the seven industrial powers at the summit agreed to take up matters of Soviet aid independently when they could not reach a consensus.

France and West Germany supported economic aid to the Soviet Union while Japan, the United States, and Britain were opposed to the idea.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu maintained throughout the summit that Japan is unwilling to provide financial assistance to the Soviet Union largely because the issue of four disputed islands held by the Soviets off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido remains unresolved.

Nakayama suggested in his speech that Japan could provide other forms of aid, noting, "even though there was the accident at Chernobyl, an adequate medical system has not yet been established. We are ready to offer medical aid."

NHK Interviews Prime Minister Kaifu on Summit

OW2107122790 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1300 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto and announcer Yoko Sakurai at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo on 20 July carried on the "Interview With the Prime Minister" program under the title "The Drastically Changing World and Japan's Course"—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Yamamoto] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for being with us today despite your busy schedule. Since returning home from the summit, you have been attending to your official duties without any rest at all. Don't you feel tired?
[Kaifu] I don't feel in the least bit tired.

[Yamamoto] You are young.
[Kaifu, laughing] I am absorbed with the thought of devoting everything in my power to what I do.

[Yamamoto] Well, I think we want to begin this interview with the recent summit of advanced nations and Japan's future diplomacy. I think it is safe to say that the latest summit was held at the height of a turning point in history. First, give us your appraisal of the summit. What were your feelings? What was your impression of the summit, which you attended for the first time in your capacity as prime minister?
[Kaifu] The first such summit was held at Rambouillet, France 15 years ago. Since I happened to be deputy chief cabinet secretary at that time, I accompanied the then prime minister to this meeting. The first summit was held in the wake of frenzied price hikes. Therefore, I believe that the goal of this session was to assemble the free, advanced Western nations together to coordinate their policies in an effort to promote economic growth unaccompanied by inflation. When the Bonn summit was held some years ago, I attended as a representative of a Dietmen's group accompanying the prime minister. At that time I gained the impression that, unlike the first summit, this meeting included a good deal of debate about political issues as well.

As you have noted, the most recent summit was held in the wake of last year's drastic changes in Europe and the marking of an end to U.S.-Soviet confrontation. Consequently, the debates did not center on the distinction between the Free World and the socialist bloc but on what can be done for peace and stability on a global scale. Particular attention was focused on the question of aid to the Soviet Union—how to help the Soviet Union and how to cooperate when it wants to switch to a free economic system. Hence, I have come to the realization that the summit has changed in both appearance and substance and in terms of its goal.

[Sakurai] Mr. Prime Minister, I understand that during the photo session, you cracked a joke, making the other summit leaders laugh. What was the atmosphere like at that time?
[Kaifu, laughing] I spoke in English, gathering up my courage and nerve. As you can see from the pictures, all the leaders stood in one line. It was just before dinner, I believe. I went to Texas for the fist time 28 years ago in response to an invitation from the U.S. State Department. So, I made the comment that I remembered Texas as a state of cactuses and cowboys but, seeing a magnificent limousine coming to pick me up, I had felt relieved. President Bush started laughing. Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Mulroney then joined in the conversation to talk about various things. What I myself wanted to stress most was the existence of an outstanding university in Texas to host a summit.

When summit leaders get together, they talk about various things as a way to communicate with one another. Building human relations is important. So, with their hearts at rest, leaders talk about various things. At the opening ceremonies on the first day, it was hot, very hot. The temperature was nearly 40 degrees Celsius. So I said that Texas is hot, and they agreed. Prime Minister Mulroney then commented that since he did not grow up in a country as hot as this, he was sure to collapse during the ceremonies and that when he did fall down, he would be falling toward Toshiki. He asked me to take good care of him. I jokingly told him to fall toward Margaret. Mrs. Thatcher was standing next to Mr. Mulroney. When I asked him to fall toward her, Mrs. Thatcher responded: This is no joke. When he falls, we will both be falling toward Toshiki. Therefore, you must prop us up. We cracked such silly jokes and somehow managed.

[Yamamoto] Your English is quite good.
[Kaifu] Oh, no. I had to muster my courage and nerve. [laughter]

[Yamamoto] I watched the recent summit, and I think that you presented Japan's stand very clearly and gained recognition for this from the other attending nations. I think that this summit was characterized by the fact that top national leaders said what they wanted to say and yet did not contend for leadership. Besides, with the threat of the Soviet Union having disappeared, the purpose of the summit itself may have shifted from one of maintaining Western unity to one of achieving a rather loose coordination among nations and providing an arena for adjusting interests. That is the impression I have of this summit. What is your view of this?
[Kaifu] Before I left for the summit, I took time to listen to advice from previous prime ministers who have experienced these summits firsthand. I also listened to the views expressed by people adhering to various stands within the party. I held talks with the heads of the opposition parties to hear their opinions as well. What they all emphasized—particularly my predecessors—was the fact that since Japan was the only Asian country to attend this event, I should make an effort to assist the top leaders of G-7 to gain a better understanding of Asia's standpoint and Asia's situation. In debates dealing with the standpoint of Asia, the people of Europe could have views different from those of the Japanese people given the fact that they are geographically separated from our region. I spoke out on this point, drawing from the advice given to me by my predecessors.

With regard to the question of aid to the Soviet Union—incidentally, it so happened that the summit was held while the CPSU Congress was in session—all those in attendance welcomed the direction of President Gorbachev's perestroyka policies. While the world is in the process of shedding the Cold War mentality, the Soviet Union is shifting the axis of its policies toward democracy and a market economy. Such an indication of direction is good for international stability. Japan appreciates this change of direction and will provide what cooperation it can. For instance, trade between Japan and the Soviet Union has been growing in volume. Japan has received a Soviet economic survey group twice, once last year and again this year, which came to learn how Japan has achieved its economic progress since the war. We already are providing informational assistance.

On the other hand, nations in the West have differing positions concerning aid to the Soviet Union. Germany, for example, has already decided to provide 5 billion mark loans in credit to the Soviet Union. Other countries, noting the large amount spent on the Soviet military in the budget and the substantial military aid allotted to Cuba and other countries, insist that the Soviet Union must take the first step by correcting such situations. These nations also insist that the West should begin to assist the Soviet Union only after first studying and determining where aid is most needed and how economic reform can best be achieved there. I agreed with this opinion, of course, but I also noted that Japan is in a peculiar position in view of the question of the northern territories.

This issue should not be accepted as only an issue of Japanese-Soviet relations, or bilateral relations; it is a result of Soviet expansionism at the time of World War II. Therefore, if East-West confrontation is to end, and if the Cold War state is to really end, the northern territories issue should be internationally understood in the sense of the end of East-West confrontation on a global scale. I appealed to the leaders of the world to please understand that resolving this is very important to Japan.

Subsequently, Secretary of State Baker informed me that the seven participating nations would show their support for Japan's stand in the summit chairman's summary. In a declaration adopted at the summit, the attending nations made it clear they had taken note of the fact that this question is important for Japan. I told them that I would like to have the question resolved within an international framework. I said that instead of talking about economic aid or financial aid by putting aside the northern territories issue, Japan will extend maximum cooperation in aiding the Soviet Union, under an expanded arrangement that encompasses all questions. Fortunately, I have been able to obtain the understanding of the leaders in that regard.

[Yamamoto] You have made some firm statements. I would like to ask another question with regard to this topic. France and West Germany reportedly reacted somewhat coolly to the northern territories issue. If this is true, do you then believe that the nations participating in this summit truly understood your contention?
[Kaifu] I believe the participating nations did understand Japan's standpoint. At the same time, I understood West Germany's position of being saddled with the crucial issue of unifying East and West Germany. The issue of a unified Germany joining NATO remained unresolved, and West Germany appeared to keep that issue in mind. Furthermore, that country is in the forefront when it comes to the border between NATO

and the Warsaw Treaty Organization. With regard to West Germany's willingness to cooperate with Japan, I thought that, taking into account the position of this particular country, I should indicate my understanding and acknowledge such an act. Some summit participants made remarks to the effect that if there is any patient waiting for medicine, then please, bring it in a hurry. Am I right?

[Yamamoto] Yes, you are right.

[Kaifu, laughing] Both I and other summit participants said that since he has a lot of material, he can afford to buy medicine if he only stops providing foreign aid and cuts defense spending. This was the sort of joking remarks that were made. The summit participants agreed to undertake a survey as to just what measures should be taken to rebuild the economy [of the Soviet Union]. The participants also unanimously agreed to let the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the OECD make a survey of the current Soviet economic situation to identify both the problems and the measures by which to resolve them with the aim of positively assisting the Soviet Union to make perestroyka successful. I think that this was the greatest community undertaking.

[Yamamoto] In my opinion, it is very good to let the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank conduct a survey of the Soviet economy. If and when the results of such a survey lead to the conclusion that it will be necessary to provide financial aid to the Soviet Union, how will Japan deal with this?

[Kaifu] If the territorial issue is left unresolved or is put aside to achieve a broad international equilibrium, our people will never understand it. At the same time, if the world is moving toward bringing the era of East-West confrontation to an end and toward entering a new era of cooperation and collaboration, then it should be sure to remove all the residue left by acts of expansionism by force which took place during the closing days of World War II. I believe that this will lead to the stabilization of world peace, and all of the summit participants expressed their understanding of my view. With Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze scheduled to visit Japan for talks with his Japanese counterpart and President Gorbachev due to visit our country sometime next year, Japan will provide informational cooperation to the Soviet Union with sincerity and will accept Soviet survey teams on economic affairs. Thus, Japan will continue to undertake efforts to resolve the northern territories issue within the framework of an expanded international equilibrium, while providing as much cooperation as possible to the Soviet Union.

[Sakurai] You have just stated that Japan would make efforts within the framework of an expanded equilibrium.

[Kaifu] Yes, you are right.

[Sakurai] As you mentioned just a while ago, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and President Gorbachev will be visiting Japan this September and next year respectively. What sort of tangible measures do you have in mind to resolve the northern territories issue?

[Kaifu] A working group on the conclusion of a peace treaty has been conducting meetings since last year. At these sessions, the members of the group have discussed the issue of concluding a peace treaty in the context of studying the territorial issue. Much to our regret, these discussions so far have failed to produce any agreement.

At the recent summit, all the participants acknowledged that perestroyka is moving in the right direction and agreed to allow the Soviet Union to join the framework of a free market economy. Both I and the other summit participants supported the Soviet contention to attend meetings of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in its capacity as observer. Therefore, at discussions held on this and other matters, I intend to indicate Japan's basic position and views with sincerity to the Soviet Union. At the same time, since the Soviet Union is making efforts to ensure that its perestroyka and new thinking diplomacy blossom fully in Europe, I also intend to discuss with the Soviet Union my wish that it bring these new orientations to the Asian and Pacific regions as well. I believe that the Soviet Union will discuss this desire of mine. PRAVDA Chief Editor Frolov and Soviet Deputy Premier Biryukova, who recently visited Japan, met with me to deliver a message from President Gorbachev. They said that he had asked them to convey his optimistic view on Japanese-Soviet relations to Prime Minister Kaifu. I told them: I want to believe that Japanese-Soviet relations will become more optimistic. However, it is hard for me to see them as such under the present circumstances. From now on, Japan will render sincere cooperation to the Soviet Union in its implementation of perestroyka. I also asked the Soviet visitors to cooperate in bringing about such an optimistic view. I myself will work hard to achieve that end.

[Sakurai] The fact that the northern territories issue was included in the declaration is an example of this. Japan had a strong voice at the recent summit. It depends on how one looks at it, but it can be said that the prime minister was active; on the other hand, it can be said that Japan's strong economic power played a role. How do you see the change in Japan's position.

[Kaifu] First of all, in the 45 years since the end of the war, Japan has grown into such an economic power that the economies of Japan and the United States account for nearly 40 percent of the world economy. It is not only economic power. Take the environment, for example. Japan set up the Environment Agency in 1970 and enforced, among others, daring controls on auto exhaust. The world's industrial nations now come to Japan to learn its experiences and know-how on pollution control.

My global resuscitation plan calls for cooperation of all industrialized and developing nations for the next 100 years in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, which has become a headache. The plan represents a grand-scale scheme on dealing with carbon dioxide emissions, for example, producing bacteria that eats only carbon dioxide. People are very interested in this.

As in this case, it is not just economic power. Nations are aware of Japan's efforts to benefit mankind in science and technology. I believe that behind this is the growing realization that it will benefit them to be friends with a country that will make contributions to the world. The fact that many people lent their ears to Japan's voice at the summit can probably be explained in this context.

[Sakurai] This is how you felt?

[Kaifu] Yes, I personally believe this. At the same time, I also felt that our responsibility is very great. I also realized that my predecessors must have felt the same way, and that was why they advised me to speak out but to also be prepared to bear greater responsibilities.

[Yamamoto] Let us turn to the third yen-based loans to China. The Western nations have very critical views about the current situation in China. Among the views, there are some who say Japan is trying to make money there. Thus, I believe that realizing the loans will require some caution. Specifically, what steps do you have planned to realize the loans?

[Kaifu] I got the impression that views on the human rights issue are very strict, particularly in Europe. The agreement reached at the Arche summit last year was that the nations will maintain a critical watch on China. As far as I am concerned, Tiananmen was a very regrettable incident. I stated my view that it was an unpermissible act from a humanitarian viewpoint. I also stated that there would be no real peace, stability, or prosperity in Asia if China were isolated and that we should appropriately appraise China's actions of the past year. For instance, China allowed Mr. Fang Lizhi to leave the country, it lifted martial law, and it released political prisoners. We should give due recognition to these actions.

The United States is also taking the attitude that continuing to grant most-favored-nation status to China will benefit it. I also thought it would be desirable for the United States to take such a position and wrote to President Bush to that effect. I proposed that we should help China with its reform and open-door policies, noting the Chinese Government statement expressing its determination to continue the policies. China must carry out the reform and open-door policies.

Meanwhile, the third yen loans are a promise of Japan. I explained to the summit that Japan plans to carry out the loans step-by-step, starting with those necessary for stabilizing the people's life and those that will lead to true modernization and economic reform in China. On the charge that the loans will benefit Japanese businesses, I explained—in order to remove any misunderstanding on the loans—that since the loans are for the sake of China and for the stability of Asia, all loans will be untied, without any strings attached.

As I said earlier—take the environmental issue—even if the summit nations agree on rules, such rules would be useless if the 1 billion Chinese are isolated and are not informed of the rules. There are no borders for air or rats. Environmental issues must be considered on a global scale, and China must be a partner in discussions. I insisted on Japan's position regarding China not only in quest of improved bilateral relations but also because for this reason. The summit nations did not object to Japan's position, but I must admit there were also very critical views.

[Yamamoto] Since Japan has decided to provide this financial assistance under these circumstances, I believe it is necessary for Japan to make the world understand that such financial cooperation will serve to promote democratization in China. It might become necessary for Japan to work on China to further promote democratization or to assume the responsibility for democratization in China. What do you think?

[Kaifu] As China's neighbor, I expressed similar views at the summit. For example, Mr. Sun Pinghua recently called on me, and I sternly told him that China must make further efforts toward democratization. I intend to tell the Chinese side at every opportunity that Western nations do not necessarily view the present situation in China positively. The World Bank has resumed its loans to China, confining them to very limited humanitarian areas. It plans to increase its loans while watching how China will act in the future. On the other hand, Japan, on the basis of its own position, will resume yen-based loans to China in compliance with a bilateral commitment agreed to between the two countries. With the resumption of the yen-based loans to China, Japan will have a say in various political and economic matters, and I feel I have somewhat of a responsibility.

[Yamamoto] My next question concerns the rice issue. In the joint declaration, consideration for food security is urged. However, I do not think this acknowledges complete rice self-sufficiency, and from now on, pressure on Japan will increase. What is your opinion?

[Kaifu] On the food issue, a major subject of the summit was making the GATT Uruguay round a success. With protectionism surfacing, the summit participants agreed to cooperate with one another to make the GATT Uruguay round a success.

However, when it comes to the agricultural issue—as you are aware—both Japan and the United States are faced with exceptions. They are faced with various issues, including sugar. Europe is faced with variable surcharges. There are heated arguments on the abolition of export subsidies, or not to abolish them, citing the small size of farmland. As for Japan, it is the world's largest food importer. The government has made various efforts, asking farmers to reduce the size of rice fields by 30 percent, aimed at reducing the rice surplus. Japan's food self-sufficiency rate based on calories is the lowest not only among the summit nations but also among OECD member nations.

Being in such a position and with rice being the staple food in Japan, I sought the understanding of the summit nations from the standpoint of ensuring food security. The political declaration was prepared taking these things into consideration. As you said, although there was understanding, not everything was settled. Japan, the United States, and the EC agreed to further continue talks on the food issue at the Uruguay round for the success of the Uruguay round. Therefore, the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries minister will attend the meeting, which is scheduled to open on 24 July. He will take part in the debate to find areas where all the parties can agree. He will also thoroughly explain the Japanese position while listening carefully to the positions and efforts of other countries. I fully realize that this is a very important and difficult issue, as you say.

[Yamamoto] Lately, some opposition parties are arguing that partial liberalization of rice imports is inevitable. Taking this into consideration, I feel that it is necessary to put the rice issue to public debate, apart from the Diet resolution. What do you think?
[Kaifu] On the domestic scene, I am grateful to the opposition parties for debating this issue. I hope that not only the parties but also the general public will take part in the debate. On the international scene, there are various countries in addition to the EC, the United States, and Japan; there are those that specialize in exporting food and those that depend on food imports. Therefore, there will be areas where concessions can or cannot be made. Everyone should honestly put forward their problems and strive to obtain understanding and agreement.

[Yamamoto] You mean at home, too?
[Kaifu] It should be debated both at home and internationally.

[Yamamoto] I would like to ask you briefly about Japan-U.S. relations.
[Kaifu] Please go ahead.

[Yamamoto] With the recent summit we could clearly see a very close and intimate relationship of trust between you and President Bush. [laughter] However, there is the rice issue, and there will also be congressional moves with the off-year elections near at hand. Thus, some are apprehensive and concerned that Japan-U.S. relations will not make smooth progress as they are now. What do you think about this?
[Kaifu] To state my conclusion first, I believe the Japan-U.S. relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world. The two countries are in responsible positions, taking up 40 percent of the world economy together, not only in security matters but in all areas, as I mentioned at the beginning. Therefore, the two countries must make efforts for the world economy. At the time of the interim report and the final report on the Japan-U.S. economic structural issue, we clearly stated our views to the U.S. side, and the U.S. side made quite a few demands on us. I believe that since Japan made independent efforts to improve the quality of national life, we were able to comply with the wishes of the U.S. side to a certain extent, although the U.S. side was not necessarily satisfied with them. However, they recognized the sincere efforts made by Japan in coming that far. Therefore, Japan-U.S. relations are not at the point of deteriorating.

At the same time—I believe it was 26 June—President Bush made a so-called presidential announcement which included increased tax revenues. At that time, he called me to say that, in order to comply with my requests, the United States was trying as hard as it could to reduce its fiscal deficits. He said: Since we are trying so hard, I hope you will recognize it, even if you might think it is not enough. He said: Let us both make efforts with a common understanding. I told him I highly appreciated his efforts.

In the future, when problems arise, we must talk to each other again. I think we should broaden channels of communication rather than pressure each other and complain about this or that while making threats under SII [Structural Impediments Initiative], Super 301, or other sanctions. I proposed that various issues in Japan-U.S. relations be absorbed at various venues to nip them in the bud. When I spoke in Atlanta, I called for consultations for broadening the channels of communication from SII to CII—Communications Improvement Initiative. If we hold dialogues thoroughly and make efforts, thinking about issues from the opposite side's position, Japan-U.S. relations will not deteriorate. If they deteriorate, I believe it would be a serious matter. [passage omitted]

Kato: Kaifu Should Attend NATO Meeting If Asked

OW1907192990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1502 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Washington, July 18 KYODO—Mutsuki Kato, a senior member of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], said here Wednesday that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu should attend a summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) if asked to do so.

Kato, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, also said that U.S. President George Bush made a telephone call to Kaifu on June 5 and asked him to attend the July 5 NATO summit meeting in London. But Kaifu declined Bush's request, Kato said.

Kato is currently on a 10-day visit to the United States as a member of a multiparty parliamentary delegation, led by former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. "Now that the military confrontation between the West and East is disappearing, Kaifu should attend a summit meeting of the 16-nation Western military alliance," Kato told Japanese reporters.

Further on Visit of French Prime Minister

Discusses Trade, Cambodia

OW2007140390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1330 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard said Friday Japan and France are having problems correcting their bilateral trade imbalance and asked Japan to further open its markets.

Rocard told Japanese reporters at the Japan National Press Club Japan has so far imported only 800,000 French cars, while exporting 62 million Japanese cars to France. He also expressed concern over possible further expansion of Japanese car imports to France, saying it could cause social instability and a political reaction in France since many automobile workers could lose their jobs. France has about 200,000 people directly involved in the automobile industry, Rocard said.

At a meeting with Rocard early in the day, Kabun Muto, minister of international trade and industry, asked the prime minister to lift France's restriction on imports of Japanese cars as early as possible, ministry officials said. Rocard, who is currently on a four-day official vist to Japan through Sunday, also complained that Japan's local governments have never permitted any French sewage disposal companies to participate in their bidding systems.

France is developing a competitive edge in such technical areas as aerospace, electronics, and biotechnology, Rocard said, while calling on Japan to increase imports in these areas.

On government import subsidies for agricutural products, Rocard said all countries concerned should strive to reduce such subsidies, adding Japan should not be involved in the ongoing controversy between the United States and European countries. The issue will be the focus of a planned meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) next week in Geneva.

On Cambodian peace talks, Rocard said an Australian proposal for a United Nations interim administration for Cambodia should be regarded as one way to settle the 11-year-old conflict.

Earlier in the day, Rocard met Emperor Akihito, former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and other Japanese parliamentary members.

At a meeting with Takeshita, Rocard hailed Japan's efforts to support East European nations, Takeshita's aides said.

Comments on Trade Imbalance

LD2007165190 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The deficit in our trade with Japan is one of the main subjects brought up by Michel Rocard during his talks with Japanese leaders in Tokyo. The talks have allowed the bad impression left there by the rather bellicose remarks made by Edith Cresson to be partly dispelled. Nevertheless, the prime minister does not intend to let anyone tread on his toes. He said so this morning at a news conference. According to him, the responsibility is broadly shared.

[Begin Rocard recording] You would not believe me if I told you that we did not talk about bilateral economic and trade problems, as we did discuss them. We did discuss them, and there was no broken glass, no uproar, and no emergency calls to the doctor. There have been verbal excesses. I will not give any quotations, but would draw your attention to the fact that they are broadly bilateral and that with regard to saying things about each other we are broadly level pegging in the context of nonofficial conversations. [end recording]

If trade relations between France and Japan are improving, there do, however, remain black spots which are of great concern to the French authorities. These are the areas of electronics and, in particular, the car industry. And in this there is no question of allowing ourselves to be invaded by Japanese cars, as Michel Rocard also confirmed.

[Begin Rocard recording] You are very powerful, bravo! I have come here full of admiration. The problem is quite simple: You say you have manufactured 118 million cars, you have exported 62 million cars, and you have imported 800,000. There can only be one conclusion to this: Either you admit that there is an imbalance, or you consider that this is how you see equilibrium. If you consider that this is your view of equilibrium, I must ask you at least not to be surprised that we do not agree, that is even our right, in a healthy democracy. In my country, France, there are over 200,000 workers who work directly for the motor construction industry. There must be getting on for a million—I don't know the precise figure—in the whole of the European Community. And the very rapid penetration of Japanese cars will make that many unemployed. The social crisis that would be created by this would be extremely serious. I think that its political countereffects would be very harmful to our good relations, and even to Japan's image. I am not sure that is in your interest. In any case, I have come, quite calmly, to inform you that we shall not let this happen without discussing it at length, without negotiating the time-scales and a properly laid down reciprocity. [end recording]

Rejects Call To End Nuclear Tests

OW2107051290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 21 KYODO—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard on Saturday rejected a request to stop France's nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll in the southern Pacific, Japan Socialist Party [JSP] officials said.

JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi filed the request during a two-hour session with Rocard at a Tokyo hotel, saying that French nuclear tests have adversely affected local people's lives.

Rocard told Doi that France does not necessarily want to continue such tests. He instead urged the Japanese opposition leader to press the United States and the Soviet Union to promote nuclear disarmament. The two superpowers each own a massive nuclear arsenal which is over 200 times more powerful than France's, Rocard was quoted as saying.

The French prime minister is currently on a four-day official visit to Japan through Sunday. He met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday and with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Friday.

Urges Japan To 'Open Up'

LD2107085790 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Michel Rocards' visit to Japan is nearly over. The visit is marked by direct language by the French prime minister: The trade relations between France and Japan are difficult. The prime minister has thus decided to be frank with the Japanese. [passage omitted]

In his speech this morning to Japanese employers, Michel Rocard stressed his belief that Japan should open itself to foreign countries. Listen to him:

[Begin Rocard recording] You, Japanese, should open up, because this is the logic of a great power. The fact is, at the moment, when joining the ranks of the great powers, Japan wants to ask itself whether opening up to the world will risk an alteration of its identity. This will shows that the integration of your country into the international relations system is not a question which is sufficiently resolved by an adjustment and lower customs duties or a more transparent legislation in distribution. [end recording]

Urges Japanese Aid to USSR

OW2107103990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Oyama, Shizuoka Pref., July 21 KYODO—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard called on Japan on Saturday to give financial, trade and technical assistance to the Soviet Union to help Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev promote his perestroyka restructuring efforts.

Rocard made the call in a speech at a luncheon here arranged by Japan's powerful business group Keidanren, the Federation of Economic Organizations.

France does not want the Soviet Union to collapse amid conflicts of interests among its republics, Rocard said, adding the French Government has urged other major industrialized countries to help Gorbachev for this reason. Rocard said France hopes Japan will join it in helping the Soviet Union in financial, trade and technical fields, noting that Moscow faces a "deep economic crisis."

The Japanese Government has been reluctant to extend financial aid to the Soviet Union because of a territorial dispute between the two countries. Japan has long called for the return of four northern islands off Hokkaido under Soviet occupation since the end of World War II.

During the July 9-11 Houston summit, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu reiterated that the territorial issue is a major stumbling block to improving every aspect of relations between Japan and the Soviet Union. At the summit, France and West Germany argued for concerted Western financial assistance to the Soviets, but Japan, the United States, and Britain opposed it.

The French prime minister, currently on a four-day official visit to Japan through Sunday, was invited to the third and closing day session of Keidanren's summer business seminar held at a Keidanren guesthouse at the foot of Mt. Fuji. At the session, Japanese business leaders discussed what roles Japan can play in the international economy.

Rocard, appearing at a press conference after the luncheon speech, said both France and Japan should make more direct investment in each other. He said cultural differences between Japan and France have created difficult conditions for such bilateral investment.

Rocard said the French Government has proposed a Franco-Japan joint research and technical development project to find how to increase mutual investment. Rocard called for enhancing industrial cooperation between the two countries in the aerospace-aircraft and sea-bed resources development fields.

Turning to the approaching unification of Germany, Rocard said it will not lead to trouble in Europe if the integration of the European Community (EC) proceeds at a faster pace than German unification. Rocard said the 12-member EC needs to develop into a single political organization capable of making diplomatic and strategic decisions.

The press conference was attended by eight French Government and business leaders and 18 Japanese business executives, including Keidanren Chairman Eishiro Saito.

Rocard arrived in Japan on Thursday. During his stay in Japan, he met Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto and other Japanese political and economic leaders.

Concludes Visit, Departs 22 Jul

OW2207053790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 22 KYODO—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard left Tokyo on Sunday after his official four-day visit to Japan.

While in Japan, Rocard conferred with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and opposition Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi.

Kaifu Takes 'Cautious Attitude' Toward China Trip

OW2007061190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0523 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu took a cautious attitude Friday toward going to China for the Asian Games in September. Kaifu said he planned to thoroughly discuss the matter with Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa after Ozawa, who suggested in Bonn Thursday that the prime minister should go to Beijing, returns from West Germany.

But Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told a regular news conference that Kaifu has no intention of makig the trip. "I don't think he will easily change his view," Sakamoto said.

Western leaders attending the Houston summit last week agreed to maintain measures decided last year, including a ban on high-level contact with Chinese leaders, to protest China's military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square last summer. The summit leaders agreed to soften their stance if China makes liberal reforms, "but there is no clear evidence at this time that China is making rapid progress toward democratization," Sakamoto said.

Nakayama Notes Continued Limits on Visits to PRC

OW2007041890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told a visiting Chinese leader Friday that Japan will continue to exercise restraint on visits to China by senior Japanese ministers, Foreign Ministry officials said. The officials said Nakayama made the remark during a 15-minute meeting with Sun Pinghua, chairman of the China-Japan Friendship Association.

Nakayama was quoted as saying Japan will abide by the political declaration at the Houston summit which said the summit countries will maintain measures put in place at last year's summit, "as modified over the course of this year." At the 1989 summit in Paris, the summit leaders agreed to ban high-level exchanges with China to protest the military crackdown on dissent in June last year.

Officials said Sun expressed China's appreciation of Japan's announcement in Houston that it will begin releasing 810 billion yen in loans to China.

Nakayama told Sun that if China proceeds with reform and its open-door policy, that will help improve Chinese ties with other nations and further promote the Sino-Japanese relationship.

Sun assured Nakayama there is no change in China's policies of reform and openness. The Chinese leader also called for a boost in private-level exchanges with Japan which have sagged significantly over the past year and said Japanese tourism to China should be promoted.

China Sites Picked for Steel Mill Construction

OW1907194290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The Japanese steel industry, in response to a request by Chinese officials, has chosen two sites in northern China as appropriate for steel mill construction, industry sources said Thursday. Chosen by the Japanese industry were Yidong, Hebei Province, which has an iron ore mine near by, and Shijiusuo, Shandong Province, which is adjoined by a coal loading port, the sources said.

A report on the site selection is to be submitted to the Chinese Government when an industry mission, led by Kensuke Koga, executive vice president of Nippon Steel Corp., visits Beijing on Saturday, they said.

The Chinese Government earlier asked the Japanese steel industry to choose good sites for the construction of a steel mill of the same scale as Shanghai's Baoshan Steelworks, which has an annual steelmaking capacity of 3 million tons. The project is estimated to cost 3-4 billion dollars.

The Chinese Government is expected to choose either of the two sites on its own before a full-scale feasibility study is initiated on the project.

The Japanese steel industry intends to render active cooperation to the Chinese Government in carrying out the project, the sources said. But there would be some twists and turns before the project takes a definite shape, the sources said, since it is not included in the Japanese Government's third yen credit arrangement with the Chinese Government.

Further, China is now reportedly placing primary emphasis on the buildup and improvement of existing steelworks.

Takeshita Praises Kaifu, Comments on Election

OW1907193990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Thursday that he favors an election for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] when the current tenure of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expires in October next year. In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Takeshita praised Kaifu for his performance at the Houston summit of seven major industrialized nations and said he will continue to support him.

Takeshita, who resigned in June last year over his involvement in the Recruit stock scandal, said he ought not to say who should succeed Kaifu because there are many talented persons in the party.

Former LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe and former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa remain strong candidates as successors to Kaifu, Takeshita said.

Kaifu became LDP president and prime minister in August last year following a series of scandals affecting the LDP, succeeding Sosuke Uno. He was reelected president of the LDP on October 31 last year for a full two-year term.

Takeshita expressed a strong wish to become one of LDP's top advisers late this year when a cabinet reshuffle is expected, saying he hopes his assumption of the post would lead to the reinstatement of former Chief Cabinet Secretary Takao Fujinami and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who were involved in the Recruit scandal.

Takeshita said he has refrained from assuming the top adviser post because he thought he should take political responsibility for causing popular distrust of politicians as a result of the Recruit scandal.

On Japan's liberalization of rice imports, Takeshita said it will be hard to avoid discussing the matter and that the government and the LDP should have an intensive debate on the topic.

Mongolia

'Great Significance' Attached to Baker Visit

OW2207095690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The U.S.A. Secretary of State James Baker will pay an official visit to the Mongolian People's Republic from August the 2d to August the 5th, said the spokesman for the Mongolian Foreign Ministry. He said the Mongolian Government attaches a great significance to this visit, considering it an important step toward strengthening and developing further ties between Mongolia and the United States. During the visit Mr. Baker will have talks with Monglian leaders, tour of the country, and have meetings with public figures, said the spokesman.

Korean Struggle for Reunification Supported

OW1907114090 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] The Days of Korean Films have begun in Ulaanbaatar to mark the month of support of the Korean people's struggle for the reunification of Korea. Present at the opening ceremony were the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ambassador to Korea Chong Yun-ho and Mongolian officials.

Ulaanbaatar Reports Primary Elections 22 Jul

OW2307140290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] On July 22d, the first stage of general elections, the primary elections took place all over Mongolia. In 13,512 constituencies there have been nominated 25,210 candidates to deputies to People's Hurals of all levels who represent all of the six officially registered political parties of Mongolia. The primary elections are to nominate only two candidates for general elections. The final (?results) are expected late July 23.

According to the data by the Central Electoral Commission, by 6 PM 78.6 percent of the total number of voters went to voting booths. According to the Law on Elections, the necessary minimum number of voters for the primary elections (?is 66.2) percent.

Deputy Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission (Gurmakol) informed the government (?of the pattern of elections) that in rural areas of Mongolia 72 percent of the voters came to vote, and in the capital city the figure is 75.4 percent.

To this first democratic elections of Mongolia were invited several international observers from different countries like Great Britain parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. (?Gilbert), British MP and member of Labor Party. From the United States of America, the delgation came headed by Mr. (Paypet Hart), special envoy of the U.S. Government. Soviet Union parliamentary delegation headed [name indistinct], member of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union and secretary of (?Kamchatka Autonomous Oblast) [words indistinct indistinct]. Now let's listen what he has said to our (?special) correspondent (Tanga): [remainder of item indistinct]

Election Official Addresses News Conference

OW2207114890

[Editorial Report] Ulaanbaatar International Service in English at 0910 GMT on 21 July carries a four-minute report on a news conference held at the Foreign Ministry in Ulaanbaatar to announce the formation of a press center for the coming elections. Date of the news conference is not heard. Poor reception allows processing of only the following:

A press center for foreign reporters to cover general elections in Mongolia has been set up at the Foreign Ministry. "It will function until August the 4th and provide reporters full information about the elections to be held on July the 29th and various aspects of the political and economic reform in Mongolia."

Addressing a news conference for this center, Gurragchaa, chairman of the Central Election Commission, said: "Preparatory work is nearing completion." He pointed to three different stages of the present election campaign—"participation of several political parties, simultaneous holding of general and local elections, and [words indistinct] parties."

Next are "our" observer's comments: Today we have six official registered political parties in Mongolia. A "distinctive" feature of elections is that "they are held in two stages." The first stage—primary elections—will be held tomorrow, 22 July. Each constituency will elect two candidates who will continue the election campaign until 29 July. "For the time being, there are 273 constituencies for the People's Great Hural out of 430 where more than two candidates are running." The total number of voters this year is 1,002,000 people, with 40,000 people in Ulaanbaatar alone.

"According to preliminary data, there are more than 2,400 candidates running for (?430 seats of) the People's Great Hural, supreme body of (?power) in Mongolia. One thousand six hundred candidates are nominated by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, 200 hundred by the Mongolia Democratic Party, 100 by the Mongolia Social Democratic Party, (?60) by the Mongolian Party of National Progress, two by the Greens, and one by the Party of Free Labor." So far more than "100 correspondents from 20 countries have come to Mongolia to report on elections."

North Korea

Military Armistice Commission Meets in Panmunjom

North Urges ROK Dialogue

SK2307061590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0210 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The 456th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] is being held in Panmunjom, at the request of our side.

At the meeting, our side proposed to the U.S. side that urgent measures be taken for a North-South dialogue and for the relaxation of tension. Our side is demanding that negotiations for such measures be undertaken.

General Choe Ui-ung, our side's senior member, pointed out the following:

The move toward detente and negotiation is the trend of the world today. Easing tension and realizing peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula are urgent tasks that must be delayed no further.

Proceeding from such a realistic demand, some time ago our Republic's government put forward a five-point policy for the reunification of the fatherland in a bid to ease the tense situation on the Korean peninsula and to reunify the fatherland. And to realize this policy, our government put forward a new disarmament proposal. In addition, to promote dialogue and negotiations for reunification, we took the initiative to open our side's area in Panmunjom beginning 15 August.

This is another epoch-making proposal to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and to achieve a decisive breakthrough for the reunification of the fatherland. In addition, this is the clear-cut expression of our earnest and sincere efforts to settle questions through dialogue and negotiations.

The U.S. side, however, has rejected our peaceful proposals and efforts. Furthermore, recently it has further reinforced its armed forces in South Korea and has frequently conducted war exercises, thereby making the situation more tense on the Korean peninsula. Such activities run counter to the tenor of the times for detente and dialogue. They also run contrary to our intention and efforts to realize disarmament and guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula.

In particular, today when the North-South dialogue, which had been suspended for a long time, is being held again and when the people at home and abroad, who desire reunification and peace, are unprecedentedly raising their voices, the reinforcement of armed forces and the continuation of war exercises are anachronistic acts.

All Korean people at home and abroad, full of bright hope for national reunification, sincerely want the North-South dialogue to be successfully held and to come to a good fruition.

On 15 August this year, which marks the 45th anniversary of the fatherland's liberation, fellow countrymen of the North, the South, and overseas will gather in Panmunjom to hold a pan-national meeting aimed at dissipating misunderstanding and mistrusts between the North and the South; at achieving national reconciliation and unity; and at hastening reunification.

World opinion and the entire national mind are concentrated on Panmunjom. Therefore, we, both sides of the MAC, should take positive measures which will be substantially helpful to relaxing tension, to the North-South dialogue, and to reunification.

Saying that taking such measures are reasonable both in view of the Armistice Agreement which aims at peacefully settling the questions concerning Korea and in view of the mission and duty of the MAC which aims at easing tension, preventing the reoccurrence of a war, and contributing to dialogue and reunification, our side's senior member added that if the MAC ignores detente, dialogue, and reunification today, then the MAC cannot avoid denunciation from all Korean people and peace-loving people of the world.

Saying that the MAC should take substantial measures helpful toward relaxing tension and for dialogue aimed at reunification, he pointed out:

First of all, our side acknowledges that it is necessary for both sides of the Armistice Agreement to fully ensure the activities and security of the representatives of all walks of life, overseas fellow countrymen, journalists, and other visitors who visit Panmunjom from the North and the South for dialogue and reunification. It is also necessary to take measures helpful to the full-scale opening between the North and the South.

Many people will visit Panmunjom for dialogue and reunification, as well as to attend the 15 August pan-national meeting. The question of guaranteeing their freedom of activities and safety should be settled by the MAC in a responsible manner.

In July 1989, when questions regarding the activities of the International Peace Grand March in Panmunjom and the passage through Panmunjom of Yim Su-kyong, who had attended the Pyongyang festival as a representative of the National Council of University Student Representatives, were raised, your side reinforced its armed forces in the Joint Security Area and aggravated tension. Undesirable incidents against the other side took place in the course of the North-South dialogue and during the visits to the other side. This was entirely because the MAC did not take proper measures.

We, both sides, should take thorough measures to prevent such incidents from reoccuring and should take measures helpful to realizing a full-scale opening between the North and the South.

In order to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and to support the North-South dialogue, we should stop reinforcing armed forces and conducting military exercises, which threaten the other side. Such activities block reunification on the Korean peninsula and put dialogue itself in danger.

Because of the U.S. side's war exercises in the past, such as the "Team Spirit," the North-South dialogue was suspended. This teaches us a serious lesson. We, both sides, should take urgent measures to stop reinforcing armed forces and conducting large-scale military exercises which threaten detente and dialogue.

Saying that such measures should be taken by both sides of the MAC in order to relax tension, and to realize North-South dialogue and reunification, our side's senior member proposed that the U.S. side take the following urgent measures:

1. In order to successfully guarantee the pan-national meeting and dialogue for reunification, both sides should withdraw all weapons and armed personnel and should remove military facilities, including outposts, fortresses, and camps from the area of the MAC headquarters and from the Joint Security Area in Panmunjom.
2. Both sides should guarantee conveniences in all activities of the North-South joint promotion committee for pulling down the barrier of division, which will be formed to remove the concrete wall—the symbol of division and confrontation, and the barbed wire in the Demilitarized Zone and surrounding areas.
3. Both sides should stop reinforcing armed forces and conducting large-scale military exercises which run counter to dialogue and reunification.

Our side's senior member called for taking all these measures before 15 August. Saying that if such measures are taken, then freedom of activities and the safety of representatives of the authorities, political parties, and organizations, and overseas fellow countrymen—who may visit Panmunjom to participate in the North-South talks or for reunification—can be reliably guaranteed, he added that this will have a positive influence on relaxing tension, and bringing about reunification and dialogue. He said that this also will contribute to removing the barrier between the North and the South and to realizing a full-scale opening.

Adding that because the U.S. side has expressed its concern over the North-South dialogue and talked about tension relaxation and about developing trust, our proposal can be a basis for true negotiations in today's meeting, our side's senior member proposed to the U.S. side to enter into negotiations.

The meeting continues.

U.S. 'Aggravating' Situation

SK2307064790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The 456th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] continues in Panmunjom.

Major General Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side, is laying bare the facts that the U.S. side, while running counter to North- South dialogue and to easing tension, is aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula by beefing up its forces of aggression in South Korea and frequently staging war exercises.

The U.S. side recently has become more feverish than ever in beefing up its armed forces. Last 8 June, the U.S. side brought two F-16 up-to-date fighter-bombers equipped with ultra-modern nighttime navigation systems into the Osan [Air] Base in South Korea for deployment, and it is scheming to continue the introduction of such fighters into South Korea.

The fact that South Korea has become the first overseas base where the fighter-bombers are deployed after their improvement shows the intensity of the effort which the United States places on military buildup in South Korea.

This year, the United States has also brought 120 M-1 new-type tanks into South Korea and is currently scheming to bring in F-18 up-to-date fighters, AIM 7-M missiles, surface-to-surface cruise missiles, and all kinds of up-to-date arms and equipment.

Meanwhile, the U.S. side is also frequently staging adventurous military exercises. On 10 July alone, by mobilizing in a row about 550 aircraft of all kinds—including F-16, F-4, F-5, and A-37 fighter-bombers, many formations of assault aircraft, and fighter-bombers of the South Korean puppet forces—the U.S. side, in the skies of Kongju, (Muyon)-to and Kunsan areas, staged the exercise of attacking ground objects, postulating a surprise attack against our side.

Coinciding with this air assault exercise, the South Korean puppet forces brought a mass of infantrymen, tanks, and artillery pieces to the area close to the DMZ and became feverish in staging exercises of assault aimed at northward invasion, such as the river-crossing, guerrilla, general field artillery, infiltration, and command-post mobile exercises.

The U.S. side is openly saying it would continue the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise in the next year as well.

Saying the situation is not developing along with the advancing North-South dialogue, and tension is not being eased but confrontation and the danger of war are further deepening because of such military buildup and military exercises by the U.S. side, the senior member of our side branded the U.S. side totally responsible for the acute tension persisting on the Korean peninsula.

In addition, saying we cannot but think it serious the enemies carry out a military buildup and stage the commotions of war in South Korea when we have put forth a new disarmament proposal and the high-level North-South talks as well are in sight, the senior member of our side emphatically added such maneuvers must be duly condemned as an anachronistic act running counter to the peace-seeking trend of the times, as an anti-dialogue and anti-reunification act which tramples the aspiration of the people at home and abroad, who desire progress in North-South dialogue and reunification, and as a crime which violates the Armistice Agreement requirements.

In addition, saying military buildup and war exercise are necessary only for war, he added: In the atmosphere of war, dialogue cannot be held in peace and substantial and open-minded dialogue is impossible, even if dialogue is held. One of the important reasons the North-South dialogues, which began in the early seventies, had gone through travails constantly and had failed to produce any good result was precisely due to such an adventurous military act. Such a tragic situation as one in which North-South dialogue is suspended and brought to rupture must not be created any more. Toward this end, the military buildup and war exercise by the U.S. side must now be brought to an end, and a military act which affects dialogue must not be committed.

In conclusion, the senior member of our side stressed the United States, instead of doing something against dialogue, must make an effort to ease tension and help North-South dialogue and, under the current circumstances, must affirmatively respond to our proposal.

The meeting continues.

Tension-Easing Measures Listed

SK2307050390 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0503 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Panmunjom July 23 (KCNA)—The 456th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] is underway here at the proposal of our side.

At the meeting our side urged the U.S. side to take a practical step for creating an atmosphere favourable to the North-South dialogue and easing tensions prevailing on the Korean peninsula.

Major General Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side, said that Koreans in the North and the South and overseas will gather at Panmunjom on August 15 to hold a nationwide conference and a large number of people will visit here for dialogue and reunification.

Both parties to the armistice he stated, must fully ensure the activities and personal safety of delegates of all segments, overseas Koreans, journalists and visitors coming to Panmunjom from the North and the South and take a step helpful to complete opening between the North and the South and a desire to stop acts of endangering detente and dialogue.

The senior member of our side proposed that the U.S. side take the following immediate measures for the North-South dialogue and detente before August 15:

1. Both sides should withdraw all the arms and military personnel from the headquarters area of the MAC and the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom and remove posts and fortified positions and other military installations for the successful nationwide conference and reunification dialogue.
2. Both sides should afford convenience in all the activities of a North-South joint committee for the promotion of the dismantlement of the divisive barrier to be formed to pull down the concrete wall, a symbol of split and confrontation, and wire entanglement from the Demilitarized Zone and its surrounding areas.
3. Both sides should stop arms buildup and large-scale military exercises going against dialogue and reunification.

The senior member of our side said: We think our proposal be a foundation for a sincere consultation at this meeting, since the U.S. side is also interested in the North-South dialogue and talks about detente and confidence building.

The meeting continues.

Government, Media Reaction to No's Travel Offer

'Frustrating' Panmunjom Meeting

SK2207084490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0827 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—The minister of the South Korean puppet Unification Board, in a press conference he hastily called on July 20 right after the traitor No Tae-u issued a "special announcement", said if the North failed to accept South Korea's "offer for five-day free travel" around August 15, the "coalition for national democratic movement" (Chonminnyon) and others will not be allowed to participate in the nationwide conference, according to a report.

This shows that the "offer for free travel" with time-limit made in the socalled "special announcement" is a proposal not for truly promoting national reconciliation and unity and the country's reunification but for frustrating the nationwide conference.

In his "special announcement" the traitor No, vociferating about "free travel", mentioned no word about the nationwide conference with its opening day in the offing. If his "announcement" was truly motivated by the desire for reunification, he should have said he would also ensure the nationwide conference slated on August 15. While saying he would keep the Panmunjom open for five days he pretended not to know about the conference slated to take place in one of the five days.

Instead, he, right after his "announcement", let the "minister of the unification board" blare that if the North fails to do something they would not allow "Chonminnyon" and others to participate in the conference.

Worse still, the "minister" took issue with the designation of Panmunjom as the venue of the conference, which fully reveals the sinister intention of those who want to lead the conference to failure. While crying for the opening of Panmunjom, they are opposed to the meeting at Panmunjom of fellow countrymen who suffer from the division of the nation. This is a self-contradiction.

Trade Union Official Critical

SK2107075790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0455 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The statement issued by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] on 20 July on authorization by the DPRK Government, political parties, and organizations is creating great repercussions among the people of all walks of life in the northern half of the Republic. Comrade Yi Kyong-won, director of a department of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUK], said:

[Begin Yi recording] As has been reported, the CPRF, on authorization by the DRPK Government, political parties, and organizations issued a statement in connection with the so-called special announcement issued by the South Korean person in authority in connection with inter-Korean exchanges.

The South Korean person in authority proposed that five days around 15 August be marked off as a period for grand inter-Korean exchanges, allowing free travel and visits by the compatriots of the North and the South through Panmunjom during this period.

On the surface, this proposal gives the impression that the South Korean person in authority desires free travel and total openness and is trying to do something to realize them. However, anyone who is even a little thoughtful would be able to see through it, and see that the so-called inter-Korean exchange proposal is nothing but deceptive propaganda, because the South Korean person in authority, while proposing opening up between the North and the South, completely ignored, without saying a word, such issues as the removal of the concrete wall and the abolition of the legal and systemic devices which are the fundamental obstacles to free travel and total openness. Raving about openness without pulling down the concrete wall which physically cuts off the North and the South and without removing such a political barrier as the National Security Law that regards those who visit the North as criminals, is nothing but playing with words.

Moreover, opening only one route through Panmunjom, and only for five days at that, is impossible, from a commonsense point of view. Now, there are some 10 million people of displaced families and relatives separated in the North and the South. How can so many people freely travel and visit each other through Panmunjom, which allows only one-way traffic, for the limited five-day period? I think that this in fact is nothing short of a fundamental rejection of free travel and total openness.

What is aimed at by the South Korean ruling bunch in making this hasty special announcement is to frustrate the forthcoming Panmunjom pan-national meeting and to calm down the opinion at home and abroad that is calling for the demolition of the concrete wall and free travel and total openness between the North and the South. They are also scheming to tide over the internal political crisis created by the tyrannical railroading at the National Assembly by the Democratic Liberal Party, by diverting the attention of the South Korean people.

In order to realize the urgent demand of the entire nation for free travel and total openness, the concrete wall built in the area south of the military demarcation line should be pulled down and free visits should be allowed at any time rather than during a limited period of time.

In this sense, I think that we were totally right when we proposed the formation of the North-South joint committee for the promotion of pulling down the wall of division. Also, as stated in the CPRF statement, if the South Korean authorities really have the will to realize travel through Panmunjom, they should abolish the National Security Law before 15 August and release first at least the figures whom they arrested and imprisoned for visiting the North.

Also, they should not hamper the convocation of the 15 August pan-national meeting but allow all travel for the participation in the pan-national meeting and for the arrangements for the event.

The attitude taken by the South Korean authorities will be the yardstick to determine whether they really have the will to realize free travel and total openness between the North and the South. I strongly maintain that the South Korean authorities should not mock the nation any more with the issue of the reunification of the country but affirmatively accept our realistic and reasonable proposal for free travel and total openness. [end recording]

ROK Intention 'Sinister'

SK2207090790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0832 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—If the South Korean person in authority has the true intention of permitting free travel to the North, he should pull down the concrete wall standing in the way of national reconciliation and unity and blocking free travel and complete opening, abolish the "National Security Law" and release at once those who were illegally arrested for their visit to the North, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article headlined "Whole Nation Follows the South Side's Attitude".

In his recent "special announcement" the South Korean chief executive claimed opening between the North and the South, not mentioning even a word about the dismantlement of the concrete wall and the abolition of the "National Security Law", a stumbling block lying in its way.

Families and relatives living separated in the North and the South total ten million. And the entire people in the North and the South have eagerly waited for the opening of the door of their free travel between the two parts. While calling for opening between the North and the South for free travel of the nation, however, the South Korean person in authority confined the route of travel to Panmunjom only and limited it for five days only. This means, in fact, a total denial of free travel and complete opening.

It is obvious that his offer for travel through Panmunjom is not for free travel and complete opening but for blocking them. And it is also clear that his offer is nothing but an advertisement for false propaganda to frustrate the pan- national conference which will soon open, smooth down public opinion at home and abroad calling for the demolition of the concrete wall and free travel and complete opening between the North and the South, divert elsewhere the South Korean people's attention from the "National Assembly" which has turned into a fascist, cripple one and bridge over the crisis of the tottering regime of the "Democratic Liberal Party".

Since the South Korean person in authority permitted limited travel through Panmunjom, though it is unrealistic in the light of its detailed content and is sinister in its intention, he has no reason to keep the "National Security Law" intact and no pretext to keep behind bars the messengers of reunification and block the pan-national conference at Panmunjom.

As the South Korean person in authority suggested travel between the North and the South, there is no reason why the "coalition of national democratic movement" [Chonminnyon] which initiated the pan-national conference should not participate in it. The South Korean authorities should not prevent South Korean delegates of various strata from heading for Panmunjom to participate in the conference but show an official attitude of giving assurances that they would allow a column of the grand march for the promotion of national reunification to go to Mt. Halla through Panmunjom from Mt. Paektu. Vociferating about "travel" without such practical measures and action is a mockery of the nation and an empty talk.

The nation follows the attitude of the South Korean person in authority.

In the meantime, a MINJU CHOSON news analyst urges the South Korean authorities to positively accept our proposal clarified in the statement of the Committee for the Reunification of the Fatherland dated July 20.

Paper Warns Against 'Mockery'

SK2307045090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 23 Jul 90

["No Mockery of the Nation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a commentary warns that the South Korean authorities must not make a mockery of the nation over the reunification question.

Branding No Tae-u's "special announcement" as a deceptive advertisement for propaganda which seeks a criminal aim to tone down the calls of public opinion at home and abroad for removal of the concrete wall and free travel and complete opening between the North and the South and to foil the pan-national conference at Panmunjom due to open before long, the news analyst discloses the falsity of the "offer for inter-Korean exchanges of people" as follows:

One hour after No Tae-u's "special announcement", the South Korean "National Unification Board minister" told newsmen that only when the North accepts their offer would they "allow" the "coalition for national democratic movement" [Chonminnyon], other democratic organisations and democrats in South Korea to take part in the pan-national conference at Panmunjom and if the North fails to do so, they would not "permit" their participation.

How come one person offered "exchanges" with the North, while another said they would "allow" the "exchange" on condition that the North accepts their "offer"?

It is, in a nutshell, because the No's "offer of exchanges" is nothing but a trick which was invented hastily to obstruct them, not to execute them.

If the South Korean authorities truly intend to realise free travel, they must immediately scrap the "National

Security Law" before anything else and release at least the messengers of reunification now in prison, first of all. And they must manifest their official stand guaranteeing that they would not bar the "coalition for national democratic movement", other democratic organisations and public figures in South Korea from participating in the August 15 pan-nation conference.

We will follow the attitude of the South Korean authorities.

Yon Hyong-muk Letters to South

SK2307103890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in the letters dated July 21 respectively addressed to South Korean "President" No Tae-u who is president of the "Democratic Liberal Party," "Prime Minister" Kang Yong-hun, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy Kim Taechung and President of the Democratic Party Yi Ki-taek, proposed to have working contacts between representatives of the authorities and political parties in the North and South of Korea at an early date. The letters were conveyed to the South side at Panmunjom today.

The letters recall that the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, in a statement issued on July 20 upon authorization of the DPRK Government and political parties and organizations regarding the July 20 "special announcement" of the South Korean chief executive, clarified the principled stand on free travel and full-scale opening between the North and South.

They call attention to the fact that the North side had already urged the South side to accede to a proposal for an early convocation of a North-South top-level conference in which the heads of authorities and leaders of the political parties will take part in order to comprehensively discuss the questions of free travel and complete opening between the North and South including the question of removing the concrete wall in the South side's area and the wire entanglements in the North side's area at one and the same time and the question of forming a North-South joint committee to promote the removal of the barrier of division as a joint body for the purpose.

In this regard they propose to the South side to have working contacts between representatives of the authorities and political parties in the North and South of Korea at an early date. They notify the addressees that four delegates, authorized by the authorities and political parties of the DPRK, will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 10:00 July 27.

Chondoist Chongu Party Denounces DLP Members

SK2007153090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 20 (KCNA)—The Chondoist Chongu Party brands the hideous gangsterism of the clan of the "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP], a private political party of No Tae-u, in trampling underfoot the will of the people by political violence as an unpardonable savage fascist violence to gratify their wild ambition for long-term office.

A spokesman for the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party said this in a statement today denouncing the "DLP" for having committed such a fascist violence as railroading 26 anti-democratic bills through the plenary session of the puppet National Assembly in defiance of the strong opposition from the opposition parties in South Korea.

The ramming of evil bills through the "National Assembly" by the political gangsters of the "DLP" betrays the No Tae-u group's anti-democratic nature and criminal purpose in the merger of the three political parties and shows that the "Liberal Democracy" loudly mouthed by the South Korean puppets is the grave of democracy and freedom, the statement says, and goes on:

"Bills" rammed by the political gangsters of the "DLP" through the "National Assembly" are evil ones aimed at cementing the colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists and the fascist dictatorial system so as to realise the plot of the "DLP" for long-term office and exacerbate the confrontation between the North and the South. Accordingly, the railroading of the evil bills cannot but be a violence of ignoring the opposition parties, going against the will of the people and violating parliamentary democracy.

How can one who has human conscience and the sense of obligation befitting a politician tolerate the rude fascist violence of the No Tae-u group and remain at the "National Assembly" in which they hold sway, the bridesmaid of the dictatorship?

Extending sympathy and support for the announcement of the resignation on the part of the South Korean opposition "assemblymen", the statement expresses the belief that the South Korean opposition parties and the people of all walks of life will fight out to dismantle the "National Assembly", hold a general election and make the United States-backed No Tae-u fascist "government" resign.

Paper Views Development of USSR-ROK Ties

SK2307062190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0557 GMT 23 Jul 90

["Argument Harmful to National Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—Media of some countries recently described the resumption of dialogue between the North and South of Korea as a result of "improvement of relations" between the Soviet Union and South Korea. This cannot be construed otherwise than seeking an aim to take a share in freezing and perpetuating the division of Korea, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst says:

As we have already announced at home and abroad, the North-South dialogue was resumed on our own initiative following the close of the "Team Spirit" military exercises, and it was by no means the result of any outside influence but stemmed from our unswerving independent faith and will to put an end to the tragedy of national division and achieve the reunification of the country at any cost by the efforts of our people themselves.

"Development of relations" between the Soviet Union and South Korea is attributable to "nordpolitik" which the South Korean authorities have invented to create "two Koreas."

To describe North-South dialogue for discussing the national reunification question, an internal affair of the nation, as talks between "two Korean states" is as good as supplying water to the watermill to create "two Koreas."

Hence, we cannot but pay deep heed to the fact that serious political consequences might arise from the "development of relations" between the Soviet Union and South Korea, quite contrary to what they say, and cannot but worry about the fact that it might have such a negative effect as throwing a wet blanket over North-South dialogue.

Any attempts to use the resumed North-South dialogue to seek their national egoistic, political and economic profits and thus lay obstacles in the way of the cause of peaceful reunification of Korea must not be pardoned under whatever circumstances.

We have no intention to depend on some others over the issue of national reunification, nor will we act studying somebody's face.

No matter what wind may blow from outside, we will advance steadfastly along the road of our own choice to independent and peaceful national reunification in our own way without vacillation, according to our principled faith and stand.

Telephone Message Sent to ROK Dissident Group

SK2307112290 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1113 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the nationwide conference, today sent a telephone message to the "Coalition for National Democratic Movement" of South Korea (Chonminnyon) through the Red Cross hot line.

Informing that two members of the North side's preparatory committee for the nationwide conference will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 3 P.M on July 24 (Tuesday) to hand to Chominnyon a letter concerning the participation of the North side's delegation in the second preliminary contact for the preparation of the nationwide conference slated in Seoul on July 26, the message expressed the hope that the above-said organisation will send two persons with letters of credence to take our letter.

KCNA Scorns ROK Military Exercise on Coast

SK2207083490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0824 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u military fascist clique staged a frantic military exercise codenamed "90 Counter-Infiltration Operation" in the coastal areas of South Chungchong Province on July 20, according to a report.

The military hooligans made a racket over "coastal infiltration" of someone by mobilising large forces of the puppet Army, police and "homeland defence reserve forces", more than 20 airplanes belonging to the puppet ground force and Air Force including F-16, F-4D and helicopters, patrol ships and high-speed boats of the puppet Navy in the manoeuvres.

This military racket was staged under the worn-out pretext of "threat from the North" at a time when the last preliminary talks of the North-South high- level political and military talks are one week off and just after the "special announcement" of the traitor No Tae-u was published. This proved once again that the fascist clique are trying to continuously lay obstacle in the way of reunification by creating distrust in the North.

'Anti-Fascist' Rally Draws 1 Million in Seoul

SK2307055190 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0528 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—Those who gathered at an anti-fascist rally held in Poramae Park, Seoul, for three hours on July 21 totalled one million, according to foreign press reports. This massive rally was participated in by workers, students, teachers, those affiliated with opposition parties and dissident organizations and other citizens from all walks of life.

Several air balloons floated overhead, lowering streamers emblazoned with anti-"government" slogans such as "Crush No Tae-u". And the slogan "Punish No Tae-u" was painted on the pavement.

Speaking at the rally, the floor leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy explained how the "Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]" forced evil laws through the "150th extraordinary session of the National Assembly" and said "It is a coup".

The president of the Democratic Party, too, exposed the "DLP's" railroading of the evil laws through the "National Assembly", saying "This is not a National Assembly, it's a power play".

Each time the speakers exposed the high-handedness of the "DLP", the crowd shouted " Down with the DLP".

After the rally the crowd demonstrated, yelling "Down with No Tae-u" and "Punish No Tae-u".

A foreign press report said "This march is one of the largest anti-'government' demonstrations in recent years".

On the same day, some 30 students attacked the North district party building of the "DLP" in Taegu, according to a radio report from Taegu.

During the first half of this year alone, students pelted 53 "DLP" party buildings with fire bombs, demonstrating their determination not to pardon the No Tae-u group of military hooligans.

Talks With U.S. Linked to Nuclear Inspection

OW2107013990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0124 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 21 KYODO—North Korea has proposed direct talks with the United States as a precondition for accepting on-site inspection of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Authority, Japanese sources said Saturday. The sources said the Pyongyang proposal is aimed at creating a breakthrough in talks with the U.S. Government.

Further on Proposal

OW2107031190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0250 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 21 KYODO—North Korea has proposed direct talks with the United States as a precondition to accepting on-site nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA), the Foreign Ministry and other sources said Saturday.

The North Korean proposal was made in the middle of this month when Pyongyang sent a delegation to the IAEA in Vienna. The proposal called for direct talks with the U.S. Government to obtain a U.S. guarantee that nuclear weapons would not be used against North Korea, the sources said. North Korea ratified the 1970 nuclear nonproliferation treaty but did not conclude a related accord with the IAEA that allows the agency to make on-site inspections to determine whether a country without nuclear arms uses nuclear substances to make nuclear weapons. In response to an IAEA advisory to accept the inspection, North Korea demanded that it would comply but only if the U.S. promised not to launch a nuclear attack against the country and to withdraw nuclear arms from South Korea.

In Washington, U.S. sources also confirmed the report from Tokyo, but refused further comment on it. According to data obtained by U.S. military satellites and other means, North Korea is constructing nuclear development facilities at a site some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang. It is strongly suspected that they include spent nuclear fuel cycling facilities. Experts said the cycling facilities may start operating in the fall of next year. Foreign Ministry sources said they view the North Korean proposal for direct talks with the U.S. as a push for breakthroughs in the Pyongyang-Washington talks. North Korea agreed in May to return to the U.S. the remains of five American soldiers killed in the Korean war. A U.S. State Department official welcomed the decision as a positive step in bilateral relations.

Envoy to China on Conditions

SK2107021490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Our embassy in China on 18 July conducted a news conference on the U.S. slander against us regarding the signing of a nuclear safety agreement according to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NNPT]. Chinese newspaper, news agency, and broadcast reporters attended.

Chu Chang-chun, our ambassador to China, addressed the conference. He denounced the United States, saying that a few days ago, in a so-called statement by the chairman of the summit of the seven Western industrial countries, U.S. President Bush raved that our Republic's failure to sign a nuclear safety agreement that accords with the NNPT has aroused grave concerns. Chu Chang-chun said this completely reverses black and white. He condemned the United States by saying: The government of our Republic not only has made efforts to sign a safety agreement with the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] after joining the NNPT, but it also has advanced a proposal to realize disarmament and make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone. On many occasions it has proposed neogotiations on this to the United States. The U.S., however, has refused all our proposals and has continued to strengthen its maneuvers for nuclear threat by constantly reinforcing nuclear armed forces in the southern area of the Korean peninsula.

Ambassador Chu Chang-chun said: Such maneuvers by the United States not only run counter to the principles of international law—which prescribes nations possessing nuclear weapons should not use force against any other country—and to the NNPT itself, but also go against the commitment the United States made when it signed the treaty—that it will not use nuclear weapons to threaten states without them.

Saying that to observe its commitment the United States first should eliminate the nuclear threat prevailing on the Korean peninsula, Ambassador Chu Chang-chun continued: If the United States eliminates its nuclear threat against us, we are ready to sign a nuclear safety agreement with the IAEA at any time. It, too, is only natural for us as a member state of the NNPT to ask for the elimination of the nuclear threat which infringes on its national sovreignty and rights of survival. That the United States has unilaterally urged us to sign a nuclear safety agreement while turning away our reasonable demand is an act that does not accord with the content of the NNPT itself.

He stated if the United States wants a safety agreement signed at the earliest possible date, it should take steps at once to eliminate its nuclear threat against the DPRK. He stressed if the United States does so, the issue of signing a safety agreement will easily be resolved.

KCNA Denounces U.S. Air Exercises in South

SK2107044190 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0427 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists brought more than 10 A-6 assault planes into the sky above the Koun area at about 12:00 on July 19 from their Pacific overseas bases for an air war exercise for a surprise attack on major objects in the inlands of the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

They let over 10 FA-18 pursuit-assault planes fly in the sky above the Tokjok Island, Oeyon Island, Yoju and Wonju areas from the Iwakuni base of Japan between 12:00 and 17:00 and between 13:00 and 14:00 on July 18 and between 12:00 and 19:00 on July 19 for a joint strike exercise for invading the North in coordination with formations of fighter-bombers, assault planes and AWACS including F-16, F-15, F-5, A-37 and OA-10 belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce occupying South Korea and the puppet Airforce, with planes mobilized in it numbering a total of 170.

Between 08:00 and 12:00 on July 19 the U.S. imperialists brought formations of FA-18 pursuit-assault planes and formations of RF-5 reconnaissance planes into the sky above Oeyon and Tokjok Islands from their overseas bases for an exercise for attacking objects on the ground to increase a real war capacity in case of "emergency" in coordination with F-16, F-15, F-5, F-4 and A-37 planes belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce and the puppet Airforce.

They also brought in succession formations of C-130 and C-141 transport planes carrying huge combat equipment into the Kunsan Airforce Base from their Pacific overseas bases between 08:00 and 09:00 on July 17, between 12:00 and 14:00 on July 18 and between 09:00 and 12:00 on July 19 and moved and deployed them, making a racket.

The U.S. imperialists hurled formations of KC-135 refueling planes everyday in a planned way into South Korea from the Guam island over July 10-19 and let them fly in the sky above the Oeyon Island and the West coastal areas of Kunsan and Sosan for a consecutive real war exercise of air-refueling formations of nuclear-carrying F-16 fighter-bombers and Rf-4 reconnaissance planes belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce and thus fully revealed their aggression design for air strike at not only the northern half of Korea but also Asia and other regions.

With the frantic fire-playing of the U.S. imperialists the fighter planes flying in the sky above the areas of South Korea on July 19 reached more than 450.

All this fact clearly shows once again that "detente" and "disarmament" on the lips of the U.S. imperialists are a lie and reveals their invariable belligerent nature as an aggressor.

KCNA Criticizes Cheney's Remarks to Japanese

SK2207082890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0818 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary [Richard] Cheney reportedly said Thursday that "there was no justifiable reason for U.S. forces to pull out of Asia in light of the lack of detente progress in Asia and the instability on the Korean peninsula." His outburst came in talks with a suprapartisan group of Japanese politicians on a visit to the United States.

His remarks show that the U.S. imperialists' advertisement about U.S. military cutbacks in the Pacific is a deception and openly reveals their sinister intention to continue their moves for aggression and a new war in the Asia-Pacific region under the pretext of somebody's "threat" and "instability."

This was proved when he stressed that the Misawa Air Force Base and Yokosuka naval facilities in Japan would be kept intact and that under any scenario, there would be no change in the U.S. forward-deployment strategy that is centered on its naval forces in the Pacific.

As far as "instability" on the Korean peninsula talked about by Cheney is concerned, it has been created entirely due to the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and frantic new war provocation moves.

Cheney's attempt to justify the U.S. military occupation of South Korea, distorting this stark fact, eloquently shows that the U.S. imperialists are shameless aggressors.

With no pretext can the U.S. imperialists justify their occupation of South Korea.

Soviet 'Marathon Squad' Supports Unity Policy

SK2207081790 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0809 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—The Soviet Amur regional marathon squad for supporting the Korean people's struggle for the dismantlement of the concrete wall and for free travel and complete opening between the North and the South was interviewed by reporters here Saturday.

Speaking first, deputy head of the squad Aleksandr Dhiva said that the Soviet-Korean friendship was sealed in blood and has been consolidated in the struggle for freedom and peace and that the strengthening and development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries has contributed to the building of a new society.

Speaking next, the head of the squad Valeriy Voloshin voiced support for the Korean people in their struggle to have the concrete wall pulled down and realise free travel and complete opening between the North and the South.

Saying the Communist Party and Government of the Soviet Union fully support the efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for national reunification, he stressed that the presence of foreign troops in South Korea cannot be justified on any pretext and under any circumstances.

Recalling that Comrade Kim Il-song put forward a new proposal for the dismantlement of the concrete wall built in the area south of the military demarcation line and for free travel and complete opening between the North and the South of Korea, the speaker expressed full support for the five- point policy of national reunification laid down by him at the first session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly.

JSP Delegates' 'Friendly' Visit Yields Results

Kaifu Seeks Official Talks

OW2107101790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Tokyo, July 21 KYODO—A Japan Socialist Party (JSP) delegation currently on a visit to North Korea on Saturday delivered to a high-ranking North Korean official a message from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu calling for governmental talks aimed at improving bilateral relations, party officials said.

JSP Vice Chairman Wataru Kubo, leader of the six-member JSP delegation, conveyed the message in a meeting with Kim Yong-sun, director of the International Department of North Korea's ruling Workers Party, said a spokesman for the delegation when reached by telephone from Tokyo. Kaifu's message said the Japanese Government hopes to start official negotiations with North Korea without preconditions to improve bilateral relations, Taneaki Tanami, the JSP spokesman, said. Kubo also handed Kim a letter to President Kim Il-song from JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi, inviting a North Korean delegation to visit Japan this autumn, Tanami said.

The JSP delegation arrived in Pyongyang on Friday for talks with North Korean leaders on pending bilateral issues, including improvement of Japan-North Korea relations and the release of two Japanese seamen held in prison since 1983. The JSP, Japan's largest opposition group, has been the main conduit for communication between Japan and North Korea in the absence of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Kubo told Kim that there have been changes within the Japanese Government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in favor of improved relations between Japan and the North Korea, Tanami said. Kubo also expressed the JSP's view that it is necessary for the Japanese Government to officially apologize to North Korea for Japan's colonial rule over the Korean peninsula and express regret over its pro-South Korean policy maintained since the end of World War II. He sought North Korea's response to the recent summit meetings held by South Korean President No Tae-u with U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Tanami said. The delegation is scheduled to hold meetings with North Korean leaders Sunday and Monday.

Talk With WPK Members

SK2207095490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0850 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—Talks were held here on July 21 and 22 between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Japan Socialist Party.

Present at the talks on our side were Kim Yong-sun, secretary, and Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department, of the WPK Central Committee and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side were Makoto Tanabe, vice-chairman of the JSP Central Executive Committee, its adviser, and members of the JSP delegation led by Wataru Kubo, vice-chairman of the JSP Central Executive Committee.

At the talks the two sides discussed the problems of ensuring peace and security in the Asian and Pacific region and easing tension on the Korean peninsula and the question of Korean reunification as well as the issue of further developing the good-neighbour friendly relations between the two parties and exchanged opinions on a series of matters of common concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Meet With Yi Chong-ok

SK2307110490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, today met and had a friendly conversation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall with the delegation of the Japan Socialist Party with Makoto Tanabe, vice-chairman of the JSP Central Executive Committee, as its adviser and Wadaru Kubo, vice-chairman of the JSP Central Executive Committee, as its head.

On hand was Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a Department of the WPK Central Committee.

Conclude Visit

SK2307054990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0519 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—The delegation of the Japan Socialist Party Sunday gave a reception upon the conclusion of its DPRK visit.

The reception was addressed by Wadaru Kubo, vice-chairman of the JSP Central Executive Committee, chairman of the JSP Committee for Measures on the Korean Affairs and member of the House of Councillors.

He said the visit of the delegation, brief as it, could help consolidate the foundations for developing the friendly relations between the two parties.

Referring to the problems discussed during the delegation's stay—the problems of developing the friendly relations, economic and cultural exchange and exchange of visits between the two countries and peoples, he said it was a good thing.

The long-standing friendly relations between the two parties and their efforts will open the road for the improvement of the Japan-Korea relationship, he said, and added: The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan now feels the necessity of effecting a switchover in its policy towards Korea.

He said the JSP and people in Japan hope the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea will be achieved.

Speaking next at the reception, Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said the JSP delegation's visit to the DPRK was days of deepening mutual friendship and understanding. He pointed out that matters of common concern were discussed in the spirit of understanding and cooperation this time.

Noting that the delegation expressed support for the Korean people's cause of independent and peaceful reunification of the country, he said this is an encouragement to the Korean people.

The Workers' Party of Korea will as ever struggle together with the Japan Socialist Party for an independent and peaceful Asia, free from aggression and war and free from domination and subjugation, while deepening the bonds of friendship with it, he said.

Vice Premier Meets Cuban, Chinese Delegations

SK2307053590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0518 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon on July 22 met and had a friendly conversation with the visiting Cuban Government metal-machine industry delegation headed by Minister Marcos Lage Coello. On the same day he met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the state bureau for travel and tourism of China led by its Vice-Director Cheng Wendong.

Kim Il-song Sends Anniversary Message to Mubarak

SK2207094790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0847 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on July 22 extended warm congratulations to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the July revolution, the national holiday of the Egyptian people.

In a message of greetings, he said that under the correct leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian Government and people are making a lot of successes in the struggle to build an independent and prosperous, new Egypt and actively striving for unity of the Arab countries and peace in the Middle East.

The Korean people rejoice over the achievements made by the Egyptian people in the course of building a new life and are satisfied with the fact that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries have been further consolidated since your visit to Korea in May, the message says.

President Kim Il-song expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would grow stronger and develop in the future.

Economic Protocol Signed With Pakistan 22 Jul

SK2307052190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—A protocol of the fourth session of the Inter-Governmental Economic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was signed here Sunday.

It was signed by Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier and minister of foreign trade of Korea, and Ehsanul Haq Piracha, minister of state for finance.

South Korea

Further on No Proposal for Exchanges With North

'Working Contact' Proposed

SK2007133490 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 20 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] In a telephone message sent in the name of Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun to Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council in North Korea, on the morning of 20 July, the government proposed to North Korea a working contact between the South and North at 1000 on 30 July in the conference hall of the Neutral

Nations Supervisory Commission to discuss how to realize President No Tae-u's proposal for great national exchange and its procedural measures.

In the telephone message, Prime Minister Kang proposed that the working delegation be composed of three men each, headed by vice ministerial-level officials. He said: "I think your side this time will agree to our proposal without any conditions."

Editorial on North's Position

SK2107115290 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 20 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "A Declaration of Great National Exchange"]

[Text] President No Tae-u's "20 July declaration," in which he proposed a great inter-Korean exchange, should not be underrated by describing it as an "epoch-making event," an expression propagandists are fond of. This is because travel and exchange between the fellow countrymen in the North and South are, as noted by President No in his declaration, an indispensable phase on the road toward reunification, and President No's declaration has confirmed this point.

North Korea has no justification for refusing to accept this proposal unless it intends to use the North-South issues for political purposes and to keep its system alive. Has the North Korean side not already called for free travel between the North and South and declared that it would open the North side's area of Panmunjom? The only difference between them is that President No's declaration did not limit the number of people, and it made all the places accessible to the travelers, while North Korea pursues a political purpose in its proposal by allowing none but political parties, public organizations, and figures of all standings to travel. Also, while North Korea makes the removal of the nonexistent concrete wall, the abolition of the National Security Law, and the release of those who are imprisoned on charges of having violated the National Security Law preconditions for the realization of free travel, President No's declaration has spelled out no conditions at all.

Now it is high time to translate the cry, "Come to Panmunjom, let us go to Panmunjom," into action. Toward this end, travelers from both sides must be guaranteed their personal safety and never be made to suffer any disadvantage simply because they traveled to the other side of the country.

North Korea is expected to hold a nationwide conference, with the attendance of the Korean compatriots invited from abroad, in the North side's area of Panmunjom before and after the anniversary of the 15 August national liberation. Saying that it was in response to a proposal from the National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon], North Korea has been calling on the Chonminnyon to take part in what is seen as a stage for people's entertainment. The government means to allow the Chonminnyon to take part in the nationwide conference if North Korea accepts the principal spirit of the proposal for a great inter-Korean exchange. "Astonishing" is the only appropriate word to describe such a change.

President No's declaration of a great inter-Korean exchange presents three stages. As the first stage, five days before and after the 15 August, will be designated as a period of great inter-Korean exchange. The second stage is that if the inter-Korean exchange before and after the anniversary of national liberation turns out to be a success, the government will make exchanges on such holidays as Chusok [Harvest Moon], the beginning of a new year, and Hansik [the 105th day after the winter solstice, at which time people pay respects to ancestral graves] a regular occurrence. The third stage is to proceed to complete free travel between people in the North and South on the basis of the successes gained in the previous stages. The purpose of such travels is varied, ranging from family reunions to sightseeing and business, but political activity is barred.

North Korea may try to attach strings to President No's proposal on the grounds that it has excluded what it calls the basic goals of free travel between the North and South, that is to say, political activity. This is due to North Korea's reunification strategy, which calls for political negotiations before anything else. However, it has already been proven how unrealistic and how infeasible North Korea's approach toward the South is.

Above all, the North Korean side must show its sincerity by accepting the proposal for a great inter-Korean exchange during the days before and after the anniversary of the 15 August national liberation which has been advanced as an experiment. President No's declaration had already been sent in advance, not just to the United States and Japan, but perhaps also to the Soviet Union, not to mention the political leaders of the ruling and opposition parties. Although we have no way of verifying whether it was a prior consultation or a notice served in advance, President No's declaration was made public amid wide public interest at home and abroad. North Korea must understand this.

Despite all such things, President No's declaration was timed to coincide with the agreement reached by the opposition forces on the integration of opposition forces and came only days before the nationwide conference. It gives us the impression that the timing had more than one purpose. This notwithstanding, the principle of the proposal for a great inter-Korean exchange aimed at engineering a full-scale opening between the North and South cannot be ignored, given its significance.

Timing Called Into Question

SK2107120490 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 20 Jul 90 p 3

[Article by Yi Chae-ho, reporter at political desk, in the "Reporter's Eye" column: "A Declaration About North Whose Timing Is Very Odd"]

[Text] On 18 July, like a bolt out of the blue, the government made public Soviet President Gorbachev's letter to President No Tae-u, the content of which deals with the ROK-USSR negotiations for the establishment of diplomatic relations. Again on 20 July, the government made another major announcement concerning North Korea.

The major announcements that the government repeatedly makes causes us to be acutely aware of the speed of change, indicating that not only ROK-USSR relations, but also our way of viewing North-South relations, are changing rapidly. A few years ago, such a major announcement would have been made only once or twice a year.

The significance of such a major announcement lies in its unexpected nature. When, on the afternoon of 19 July, a report began floating around, saying that President No would announce an "epoch-making" proposal to North Korea, officials at the Ministry of National Unification Board, the ones in charge of reunification affairs, appeared to be taken aback by the news. Senior officials at the ministry all said: "We did not know such a thing was afoot." It may be because Chongwadae had taken a precaution to keep it secret, but also because, we can sense, it was a sudden decision.

One senior official said: "I believe it will be televised." Another official asked: "Is there still something new worth declaring or proposing to the North?" He seemed to wonder: What more can we propose, after all those proposals, such as South-North summit talks, economic exchanges, joint development of Mt. Kumgang, and free travel by people over 60 years of age, that were worth proposing?

Still another senior official recalled President No's recent words that he would not advance any more unilateral proposals to the North. In fact, in a Chongwadae gathering with reporters on 28 June, which was arranged to mark the third anniversary of his 28 June declaration, President No said: "Instead of making proposals of any kind to the North, we should make an effort to settle issues in the course of South-North contacts."

The Foreign Ministry's reaction as such is identical to its earlier reaction to the publication made on 18 July of the content of a letter from Soviet President Gorbachev. A senior official at the Foreign Ministry wondered aloud: "Why is Chongwadae in a hurry to make public the contents of the letter, when there are many things to be settled between our country and the Soviet Union?" According to this official, the Foreign Ministry had made its stand on the letter known, that since the letter from President Gorbachev asked for a visit to the Soviet Union by a Korean delegation for negotiations over the establishment of diplomatic ties and failed to mention particulars, the letter should be made public after further consultations with the Soviet side. "We were against the publication of the letter," said one senior official who wanted to leave no doubts about his position.

Was it just a coincidence that the two events happened at the same time? When, on 18 and 20 July, the government made public such important activities, the opposition forces were actively on the move to integrate themselves. President of the Party for Peace and Democracy Kim Tae-chung and President of the Democratic Party Yi Ki-taek held talks on 18 July, and on 20 July the two leaders of the opposition parties agreed with Kim Kwan-sok, the cochairman of the Committee for the Promotion of the Integration of the Opposition Forces, to form a unified opposition party after integrating the opposition forces.

Nevertheless, such meaningful moves by the opposition forces have paled in significance to the government's repeated announcements of major events. We do not want to believe the speculation that the government made public such major events out of a desire to effect a new change in the political situation, which has been thrown into turmoil after the governing party railroaded bills through the National Assembly and opposition lawmakers tendered letters of resignation to protest against the railroading, but the outcome seems to have proven that point.

After seeing President No's televised proposal, one of our readers called us and asked: "Would such a proposal be accepted at a time when we have not even been able to achieve internal unity and the railroading of bills through the National Assembly is ridiculed even by North Korea?"

President No's effort to encourage a conciliatory atmosphere through unilateral declarations in the face of the fact that we have not even been able to achieve our own internal unity, and in the face of the harmony between the East and West that President No had stressed in his inaugural speech in particular, leaves with us the impression that it does not stand to reason.

Editorial Hails No's Speech

SK2107000590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Jul 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Grand Inter-Korea Exchange of People"]

[Text] We jubilantly welcome President No Tae-u's bold proclamation of an initial five-day period for grand inter-Korean exchanges of people around Aug. 15, the 45th anniversary of Korean liberation from Japan's 35-year colonial rule. In a special announcement which was broadcast live on TV and radio yesterday morning the Chief Executive stated, "We will keep Panmunjom, the truce village bordering the two parts of the Korean peninsula, open as a passage for five days beginning on Aug. 13, by accepting brethren from the North without restrictions."

Guaranteeing North Korean brethren visiting the South personal safety and safe returns home, allowing them to freely visit any place in the South and meet anyone whom they want to, No added, "We will provide all possible conveniences to our brethren visiting here, including room and board, if necessary."

At the same time, our government will take steps to allow any of our citizens who wish to visit North Korea to go through Panmunjom without restrictions. In this regard, Pyongyang is urged to take reciprocal measures in response to the No statement, a significant action setting a great milestone in the essential steps to free mutual travel through Panmunjom between people in the two parts of Korea.

In the name of Ho Tam, chairman of its "Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland" last July 5 North Korea announced that the northern portion of Panmunjom will be opened to South Koreans this coming Aug. 15, setting three conditions for cross-border exchanges. But North Korea is called upon to open not only the northern side of the truce village but also all its territory as well to permit people from the South to freely visit any place in the North in a reciprocal way, accepting without restrictions brethren in the South who wish to visit North Korea.

Pyongyang's three conditions, which only serve its political propaganda purposes, include the proviso that the inter-Korean exchanges in the truce village should be directly related to settlement of the reunification problem with emphasis on the invitation of persons representing political parties and social organizations to a politically-motivated rally there.

As No mentioned, North Korean leader Kim Il-song also proposed in his New Year message that South and North Korean societies be completely opened and free travel be allowed between the two halves of Korea. No noted that he was convinced that there is no obstacle to realizing inter-Korean exchanges of our compatriots and the full opening of both the South and the North on this year's Liberation Day. Yet, even if Pyongyang cannot agree to mutual exchanges at this time for whatever reason, President No added we would unilaterally open our society completely to North Korean brethren.

If and only if both sides can successfully exchange compatriots on Liberation Day this year, they should be able to routinize mutual visits on and around other national holidays such as Chusok (harvest full-moon festival), lunar New Year's day and Hansik (a day in early April set aside for visits to ancestral graves) as No suggested.

According to him, in the near future foreigners will also be permitted to freely travel between South and North Korea through Panmunjom. Our government, which is slated to hold a Cabinet session today, is urged to take all legal and other necessary measures to implement the presidential statement.

It may be difficult for North Korea to open up its tightly-closed doors immediately, but the rulers there are called upon to follow the global tide of openness and reconciliation, transcending differences in ideology and political system. Once again they are urged to permit free inter-Korea exchanges in all fields with the ultimate aim of realizing peace and reuniting our land as early as the turn of the century.

With German unification being witnessed as an imminent reality, may all of the 70 million Koreans now divided into the South and the North become one again to participate in the pan-national endeavor to fulfill our earnest yearning for national reunification in the near future.

Transportation Links Planned

SK2107015190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 21 (YONHAP)—The government has drawn up plans for charter flights between Seoul and Pyongyang and a ferry service between ports in the South and North, Transportation Ministry officials said Saturday. The officials said the inter-Korean travel plans also cover border crossings by tour buses and cars.

The ministry submitted its plans for transportation links with North Korea to the cabinet on Saturday morning. The plans are designed to support President No Tae-u's proposal for free travel between South and North Korea for five days from Aug. 13-17, the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

The ministry had been studying air routes between Seoul and Pyongyang in preparation for talks between the North and South Korean prime ministers in Seoul in September and Pyongyang in October. The officials said the routes could be used by ordinary visitors too.

Ferries would run between the South Korean port of Inchon and the North Korean port of Nampo, both on the Western coast, and between Sokcho and Wonsan, both on the eastern coast, according to the ministry plans.

For restoration of the Kyongui Railway Line (Seoul-Sinuiju), 740 million won will be added to next year's budget of the Korea National Railroad. For the Kyongwon (Seoul-Wonsan), 170 million won will be allocated. Ministry officials said southern sections of both railway lines, unused since the Korean war (1950-53), would be restored by 1992.

South Korean travelers to the North and North Korean visitors to the South will be required to use state-designated travel agents, who will receive a government subsidy, they said.

No 'Undeterred' by North

SK2107031090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 21 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u declared Saturday he was undeterred by North Korea's reluctance to cooperate in allowing free travel between South and North Korea and would not give up on the plan. "We should not be too disappointed or frustrated by the negative response of North Korea. We should not give up the effort for grand inter-Korean exchanges," No told the Cabinet in a meeting called to discuss follow-up steps to his border-opening declaration Friday.

North Korea, in a statement issued hours after No's televised announcement, rejected his offer as "deceitful propaganda."

"We may not be able to realize South-North exchanges on this liberation day (Aug. 15) but we will make every endeavor to see them on Chusok (Harvest Moon Festival) and New Year's Day. We are ready to positively discuss the North Korean claim.

"I believe my proposal for grand inter-Korean exchanges should be upheld to achieve national reunification. I am convinced the proposal can be put into practice some day without fail," he said.

North Korea also called for the formation of an inter-Korean committee to discuss the demolition of "concrete walls," abolition of the South's national security law and release of "prisoners of conscience" in the South.

Let the people of the North visit the South, No said, "if there are concrete walls, the North Koreans will be able to see them with their own eyes."

"The fate of the national security law should be discussed along with that of the North's security-related laws. The release of Miss Yim Su-kyong (in jail for visiting Pyongyang) can be discussed with that of political prisoners in the North," he said.

After being briefed on domestic and foreign responses to his proposal, No directed the prime minister's office to work out an enforcement decree and regulations for the law on South-North Korean exchange.

He instructed the economic planning board to financially back inter-Korean exchanges pursued by other ministries.

He asked the Finance Ministry to map out guidelines on the exchange of money, customs procedures and indemnity for accidents or damage to North Koreans traveling in South Korea and vice versa. He ordered the Health-Social Affairs Ministry to set up an emergency medical care network and the Defense Ministry to help the Transportation and Construction Ministries build or repair roads north of Seoul for inter-Korean travel.

The Communications Ministry was instructed to be in complete readiness for mail and telephone service to North Korea.

Seoul To Reiterate Offer

SK2107043490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0426 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 21 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will issue a statement next week asking North Korea to change its stand and accept President No Tae-u's call for free travel between South and North Korea from Aug. 13-17, a high-ranking official said Saturday.

The official said the statement would encourage Pyongyang to reverse its initial rejection of No's offer.

The government will make public its stance on dissidents intending to attend the North-sponsored "pan-national people's rally" at the Truce Village of Panmunjom on Aug. 15, he said on condition of anonymity.

North Korea rejected No's proposal a few hours after it was made in a nationally televised speech.

National Unification Minister Hong Song-chol said the North's rejection would prevent dissidents from attending the Panmunjom rally, marking the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule. Hong said Truce Village dividing the Korean peninsula was not the right place for such a rally.

The official agreed with Hong's view that Panmunjom was not the proper venue and added, "the government might consider allowing dissident groups to participate in the rally if it were held in Seoul or Pyongyang."

DLP May Change Security Law

SK2107064790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0615 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Pusan, Korea, July 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, the chairman of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), said Saturday the DLP was ready to consider overhauling the National Security Law and the Law on the Agency for National Security Planning to cope with changes in inter-Korean relations.

Kim also offered to meet with the opposition to discuss allowing political parties to run candidates in local elections, an issue that is a major source of controversy between the ruling and opposition groups.

In a news conference in this southeastern port city, the DLP's No. 2 man proposed that a standing consultative body be formed by the ruling and opposition parties to discuss pending political issues such as revision of the two laws and implementation of local autonomy, which the opposition strongly demands. He was in Pusan to attend a meeting of a DLP party chapter.

"We will push for overhaul of the laws and systems, based on political and social stability, so as to cope with changes in South-North relations from a forward-looking point of view," Kim said. "Accordingly, we will positively consider future-oriented revision of the National Security Law and the Law on the Agency for National Security Planning."

President No Tae-u declared Friday that he will allow free travel by South and North Koreans through the truce village of Panmunjom and let North Koreans tour the South without limit for five days from Aug. 13..

The opposition and North Korea both demand the stiff security law be scrapped because it outlaws inter-Korean exchanges and visits.

Opinions are mixed within the ruling party over revision of the two laws. Some reform-minded party members, siding with the opposition's position, have called for the overhaul to clear the way for inter-Korean exchanges.

Just before No announced he will open the border for exchanges of people, he signed into law the bill on inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and said there were few legal problems regarding the exchange as the new law supercedes the National Security Law, which bans visits to and contacts with North Korea.

Asked about his willingness to recommend to president No Tae-u that he free people such as the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Yim Su-kyong, convicted of violating the National Security Law by making unauthorized visits to North Korea last year, Kim said, "Various ways can be considered if they are seen as desirable for national reconciliation."

Their release is one of the conditions set by the North for accepting No's proposal on free inter-Korean travel. Pyongyang immediately rejected the proposal, saying it was designed to ease South Korean anti-DLP sentiment in connection with a row with the opposition over controversial political issues.

Kim said he hopes to meet with opposition leader Kim Tae-chung to seek a compromise on local autonomy and revision of the two laws.

On DLP attempts to revise the Constitution to replace the presidential system with a parliamentary cabinet system of government, Kim said the DLP would not push for an amendment as long as the opposition and the people opposed it.

But No and DLP leader Kim Chong-pil are reportedly determined to install a cabinet setup, triggering intraparty controversy.

Kim called on the opposition to drop plans for outdoor rallies to protest what it called the DLP's "tyranny."

"If the opposition tries to abandon the forum of discussions inside the National Assembly and take its struggle to the streets, it could trigger public uneasiness," Kim said. "The opposition's moves to resign from the National Assembly and call for early general elections may step up social instability and bring a suspension of constitutional rule."

The opposition has called a rally for Saturday afternoon in a Seoul park to launch a nationwide struggle against the ruling camp.

Security Law Violators May Go Free

SK2207105790 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] If free travel between the North and the South is realized, the government is considering not punishing violators of National Security Law clauses dealing with acts of "benefiting the enemy," such as simply praising, encouraging, and sympathizing with the North Korean system by those who visit the North Korean area, unless they engage in espionage activities.

It also has been revealed that the government seriously is considering releasing the Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, lawmaker So Kyong-won, and Miss Yim Su-kyong, whose verdict has been made firm or whose trial is under way in connection with their unauthorized entry into the North, if the North-South working negotiations in connection with North-South free travel make progress to a certain extent.

The government also is planning to issue the unification minister's permit without screening to anyone who wants to visit North Korea during the free travel period, including such dissident groups as the Chonminnyon [the National Democratic Alliance of Korea] and the Chondaehyop [the National Council of University Student Representatives].

Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam, speaking on 20 July on how to deal with the possible violation of the National Security Law during the North-South free travel period, said it is desirable not to punish those who simply praise and sympathize with the North Korean system even if they make remarks negating the liberal democratic system and praise Kim Il-song, the chuche idea, and the communist system, in view of the spirit of the proposal for North-South free travel and to promote the atmosphere for continuous free travel.

Minister Yi then added that if, however, the government punishes the aforementioned acts at ordinary times and does not punish them during the visit period, it will cause serious confusion among the people and that, therefore, close discussion and review would be necessary between the relevant government departments.

Another government official, touching on the issue of the political measures for those who have been to the North without government approval, including the Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, said that the government is not considering it now but that it is quite probable that they will be released by presidential amnesty if the working negotiation between the North and the South for free travel makes substantial progress.

This government official noted that as to the abolition of the National Security Law and the release of the Reverend Mun and others, which was demanded by the North Korean side when it rejected our proposal for free travel between the North and the South, the abolition of the National Security Law will not pose any problem because the provisions for the offense on secretly entering and leaving enemy territory and meeting and communicating with the enemy or enemy agent will in fact be made invalid by the law on the exchanges and cooperation between the North and the South, which will be promulgated and enter into effect soon. He then noted that if the government should not settle the issue of releasing the Reverend Mun and others soon enough, the government will find itself in an awkward position of logical conflict, failing to convince not only North Korea but also the people in general of our intentions. Therefore, he said, the government ought to positively review this issue.

Overseas Koreans May Visit North

SK2107070390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u's border-opening proposal Friday allows overseas Koreans to visit North Korea, but Koreans living in the South will be left out because the North has refused to cooperate, a government official said Saturday.

The proposal cleared away "unnecessary worries" for overseas Koreans, who feared their kin in the South would be punished by the government if they visited the North, he said.

Koreans residing abroad have secretly visited North Korea or refrained from visiting it due to such worries, he said.

Despite North Korea's rejection, foreigners may now enter the South through the truce village of Panmunjom and North Koreans may travel to the South freely, he said.

Travel Application Forms 'Scrapped'

SK2107070590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has scrapped its plan to distribute application forms to South Koreans who want to visit North Korea during Aug. 13-17 as North Korea has rejected President No Tae-u's proposal for free travel during the five-day period.

A National Unification Board official said the Board would not distribute application forms for travel to North Korea because the border would not be opened. The government planned to distribute the forms at the Board, city and provincial offices across the nation.

South Considers Preconditions

SK2107123490 Seoul YONHAP in English 1208 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 21 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to propose official negotiations with North Korea on the preconditions set by Pyongyang for unrestricted free travel between the South and the North, reliable Government sources said Saturday [21 Jul].

The sources said the South Korean Government is now studying to propose ministerial-level talks, such as justice ministers talks presumed to discuss the repealing of the security-related laws of both sides or the releasing of political prisoners, if necessary.

South Korean President No Tae-u's proposal Friday for unrestricted free travel was flatly rejected as "a deceptive propaganda" by North Korea, which asked Seoul to first dismantle "concrete walls" allegedly built South of the Demilitarized Zone, repeal the anti-communist National Security Law and release people jailed for violating the law before talking about the free travel.

Should the North Korean Government accept the negotiations, sources said, the South would propose that the authorities of the two sides revise or repeal their respective security-related laws and release "prisoners of conscience" simultaneously for the creation of a favorable atmosphere for the realization of the free travel.

South Korean officials have said that South Korea, on its part, could advise the North to scrap its own security-related criminal laws and release political prisoners.

In a related development, President No emphasized in a cabinet meeting Saturday the need to continue efforts to realize free travel between the South and North and hinted at his willingness to discuss points of contention with the North.

Regarding the North Korean demand for demolition of "concrete walls," the South Korean Government has confirmed its willingness to invite the North Korean officials to have a fact-finding tour to the concrete structure, it was said.

South Korea has denied the existence of the "concrete walls" along the border, saying that the structure was built simply as tank traps designed to block a possible North Korean invasion.

The South Korean Government is ready to discuss with the North Korean authorities issues concerning their demand for the release of the people jailed for their unauthorized visits to Pyongyang last year with a view to solving the problem in connection with Pyongyang's human rights situation, it was also said.

Daily Argues for Exchanges

SK2207073690 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Jul 90 p 3

[Editorial: "North Korea, Open Your Gate!"]

[Text] President No Tae-u's "20 July declaration" proposing free visits between the people in the North and the South is an epochal event which can be termed the last proposal the South side can make concerning nonpolitical affairs.

Needless to say, overcoming divisions can start with exchanges. Unless both sides visit each other, they can never understand each other. There will always be the danger of rupture if one side does not understand the other. It is urgent that the North and the South take appropriate measures to enable them to learn about and understand each other. If we fail to open the first gate of exchange to overcome divisions, there will be an even greater possibility that we not only will perpetuate the division but also may dash toward a clash.

President No's proposal, even though there may be some problems involving procedural matters, includes the intention of creating an atmosphere favorable for the North and South of Korea to realize mutual exchanges and of going beyond such problems.

Out of sheer national conscience, we sincerely hope that the North Korean authorities will take affirmative steps by reviewing this proposal carefully and sincerely. Over the past 40 years, we have gone through numerous clashes, including a war, confrontation, arguments, strategies, and tactics. It is no exaggeration to say that we consistently have carried out various propagandist and instigative maneuvers merely to secure a more favorable position against each other. We would like to ask if there was any sincerity about overcoming divisions between the North and the South.

The time now has come for us to remove our masks and end fallacies. The world rapidly is changing toward reconciliation and a healthy life, leaving behind the people on the Korean peninsula, who are still in acute confrontation with each other. What can we gain from the attempt to knock down and give a blow to the other side, and what worth and significance can we find even if we achieve victory over the other side in such fighting?

Proceeding from this, we sincerely hope that North Korea will warmly receive and attend to fellow countrymen visiting the North from the South by opening its closed door. The South side has already explicitly shown its will to do so. Thus, brethren in the South sincerely hope that the North side will extend its hands to ours even in a limited and phased manner.

We hope that the North side will send an affirmative reply, even if it has a condition to attach.

The South side should not remain an idle onlooker after proposing unlimited exchanges. President No has directed the Cabinet to work out concrete measures to realize and achieve his 20 July declaration. We think that our side should make substantive concessions and take sincere steps to create an atmosphere so that the North side will accept our proposal.

Some people already have questioned whether the authorities simply are making empty, unilateral proposals one after another and have said that such a "declaration" makes them lose interest. The authorities should keep this in mind. We call on the authorities to work out practical measures to eliminate the thinking that our proposal to the North is "merely another proposal" aimed at occupying strategically favorable hills and at using it for propaganda.

On the other hand, the North Korean authorities should humbly give ear to the stern criticism that all of the North and the South are being degraded as third-class people incapable even of adjusting differences of views and of realizing reconciliation.

Editorial on North's Rejection

SK2207235590 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 22 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The North's Reason for Rejecting the Free Travel Proposal Is Unjustifiable"]

[Text] Worldwide repercussions are being witnessed to the ROK Government's proposal to the North for setting aside a "grand inter-Korean exchange period" for several days before and after 15 August. The repercussions come from the hope for the advent of the trend of "reconciliation and unity" on the Korean peninsula, because the process of German reunification began with "free travel."

It is quite natural that no negative reaction should have been noted at home or abroad to the proposal for free travel between North and South Korea. The only question raised about this overture at home was from the opposition camp, which doubted the appropriateness of making the announcement at a time when the opposition parties were moving for a merger and which, therefore, suspected that the government might be trying to overshadow the significance of the opposition moves with the announcement.

The worldwide reaction to the overture was positive on the whole while expressing doubt and pessimism as to whether North Korea would accept the free travel overture.

Not surprisingly, North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] issued a statement on 20 July rejecting our free travel proposal. This reaction was well anticipated. North Korea is not in a position to allow free travel because it is refusing reform and openness and is adhering to the "Kim Il-songism system."

However, we ought to make it clear that the reasons which the North Korean CPRF offers for its rejection of our proposal are ridiculous. The preconditions that the North set for accepting our proposal was that our side abolish the National Security Law, pull down the so-called concrete wall, and release Reverend Mun Ik-hwan and Miss Yim Su-kyong.

Reconciliation and peaceful coexistence presuppose recognizing the other party, and the demands made by the North side reconfirm its attitude that it does not recognize the entity of the ROK as the other party. In other words, North Korea is reconfirming its position that it rejects reconciliation and peaceful coexistence and has not abandoned its strategy of communizing the South.

The so-called concrete wall which the North keeps mentioning is an anti-tank defensive military facility which was built as a result of the Korean war. Therefore, demanding that we demolish it is an absurd demand that we disarm ourselves. As for the revision or abolition of the National Security Law and the legal process for Reverend Mun Ik-hwan and Miss Yim Su-kyong, there may be differing views among the people in the South, and some change can be anticipated in dealing with this issue.

However, these problems are our internal affairs. The North side should not and cannot use our internal affairs as a precondition for the North-South travel issue.

It is obvious that the North side is interested only in the so-called "pan-national meeting" it is planning to hold in Panmunjom, rather than the free travel we have officially proposed. It is certain that North Korea is determined to push ahead with the "united front strategy" instead of recognizing our entity.

From this viewpoint, we will watch what sort of meeting the Panmunjom "pan-national meeting" will turn out to be. Our side made its position clear that we will unilaterally put into practice our proposal for free travel even if the North side rejects it. We could hope that although the CPRF rejected our proposal, some official North Korean authorities will come forth with more flexible attitudes.

It is quite probable, however, that this hope of ours will turn out to be our one-sided naive hope. Nevertheless, the clockwork of the world is going in direct opposition to the closed North Korean system. North Korea should give up hope that the absurd assertions, such as the concrete wall, will be workable much longer for the maintenance of its system.

North Proposal Viewed

SK2307123790 Seoul YONHAP in English 1122 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Seoul, July 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea proposed Monday that preliminary contacts for a meeting of the highest responsible authorities and political party leaders from the two parts of Korea be held on July 27 at the truce village of Panmunjom.

The proposal was conveyed in a telephone message sent from North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk to Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and presidents of three political parties—the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) and the Democratic Party (DP), a South Korean Government spokesman said. The three party heads are President No Tae-u of DLP and Kim Tae-chung of PPD and Yi Ki-taek of DP.

Yon suggested that the meeting can discuss free travel between South and North Korea and opening of the entire border dividing the two sides, along with the South's abolition of its National Security Law and dismantling what the North calls "concrete walls," the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

But Yon's proposal is seen as an anti-South tactic aimed at causing an estrangement between the government and opposition parties over the free travel and splitting public opinions in the South by raising the concrete wall and security law issues, a government official said.

The South has said there are no concrete walls, other than only a series of tank traps designed to block the possible North Korean invasion routes.

The Northern proposal also shows its intention to conduct inter-Korean dialogue for reunification mainly through the "political conference," which it has long demanded, the official said. [passage omitted]

Government News Conference on South-North Travel

Unification Minister Speaks

SK2307030990 Seoul Television Service in Korean 0000 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Statement by Unification Minister Hong Song-chol at joint news conference with Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam and Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun held at the No. 1 Government Building on 23 July—live]

[Text] How are you, everyone? First of all, I deeply appreciate your participation in this news conference so early in the morning despite the inclement weather. The reason we are holding this joint news conference today is to make the government's stance public regarding the president's 20 July special announcement in which he proposed a great national exchange between the North and South for 15 August, the 45th anniversary of the liberation, and to inform you about what has happened since the special announcement was made.

As you know very well, the 20 July special announcement, we believe, was an epochal step of grave significance to improve the confrontational North-South relations and to accelerate reunification, which is the wish of all of us.

Nonetheless, the North Korean authorities, on precisely the same day, displayed a very negative reaction in a statement from the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF]. Under the circumstances, the three of us are here to say that the government will continue to make efforts patiently and persistently to attain our goal, and we will disclose our stance and view.

First, I am going to explain the government's basic stance and, then, the other two ministers will speak on the matters of their particular interests.

Last 20 July, President No Tae-u made a special announcement declaring five days around the 15th of August of this year as a period of great national exchange. At 1100 on the same day, the government, in a telephone message sent to Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council of North Korea, in the name of Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, proposed to hold a working contact meeting between the authorities of the North and South in Panmunjom at 1000 on 30 July to discuss the procedures for the great national exchange.

North-South exchange is the path we must traverse, because it is the only means to promote mutual trust and understanding and to rejoin the severed links of the nation. Furthermore, considering the sufferings of the 10 million separated families, North-South exchange is a task which cannot be delayed any longer for any excuse or reason.

No one should turn away from the tragic reality of today in which the elderly members of separated families are passing away without realizing their heartbreaking wish after languishing and waiting for so long for the reunion of their beloved families. The sorrows and suffering of separated families must now be brought to an end.

For just this reason, we have proposed the great national exchange of the North and South for five days from 13 August and, if this is successfully carried out, to continue the exchange periodically on such national holidays as Chusok, lunar New Year, and Hansik, thus paving the way to year-round free visits between compatriots of the North and South.

We have unconditionally proposed a great national exchange to the North Korean side and have sincerely expected that the North Korean side would accept such a broad-minded proposal by us.

Regretfully, however, the North Korean side, in a CPRF statement, demanded, as a precondition to the mutual visits between the North and South, the removal of the so-called concrete wall, the abrogation of the National Security Law, the release of the detainees, and the convocation of the pan-national meeting on 15 August, thus making the realization of our proposal very difficult.

As you know, to date, delegates, suite members, and reporters of the two sides have visited the North and South sides on many occasions in connection with talks, although it was a limited number of people. In addition, in 1985, the home-visiting groups of separated families mutually visited Seoul and Pyongyang and met their families and relatives.

These events clearly prove that the preconditions set by the North Korean side can never become a factor in becoming a stumbling block to the North-South exchange.

Thus, if the North Korean side obstinately avoids the exchange by persisting in its preconditions, we are going to meet the North Korean side and negotiate the matters linked with the North Korean side's preconditions.

As for the so-called pan-national meeting, if the North Korean representatives and our compatriots abroad ask to visit our area's side to participate in the preliminary meeting for the pan-national meeting to be held on 26 July, the government will grant their request. At the same time, the government will also approve visits to North Korea by figures from our side before 15 August in connection with this meeting. In addition, the government will allow our side to participate in the pan-national meeting to be held at Panmunjom on 15 August. Furthermore, the government has made it clear that, if necessary, it is also willing to provide a more convenient place than Panmunjom for this meeting. We also welcome travel up to Mt. Halla from Mt. Paektu via Panmunjom in a grand march for the acceleration of the fatherland's reunification by those participating in the pan-national meeting and will also allow travel up to Mt. Paektu from Mt. Halla via Panmunjom by figures from our side.

The government expects that North Korean authorities will unconditionally grant the visit to the North by figures from our side and guarantee their march and their safe return, and afford them conveniences.

In connection with the grand march, we will positively provide the necessary board and lodging, transportation, medical service, communications, and all other types of conveniences.

To make the forthcoming pan-national meeting, an event becoming its name and character, we think that the meeting must be pursued in view of national reconciliation. To this end, the meeting must be broadly attended by not just certain organizations or certain figures but also by the members of all social strata of the nation, and the North and South must not slander or provoke one another but promote mutual trust and understanding,thus making the meeting one of purity which would help improve North-South relations and achieve reunification.

The North Korean authorities should understand our sincere effort for the realization of the great national exchange and should respond to our proposal even now and come to the working contact on 30 July.

As a result of this, all compatriots of the North and South, we expect, will be able to meet freely one another wherever they desire to meet on the occasion of the meaningful 45th anniversary of the liberation. They will be able to relieve themselves of the agonies of separation and overcome the barrier of distrust, thus strengthening the foundation of national reconciliation and reunification and broadening the way to the free mutual visits and complete openness between the North and South.

Finally, availing myself of this opportunity, I want to make it clear that the government will take all the necessary steps from all angles to embody the spirit of the 20 July special announcement and to put it into practice in a consistent manner.

Defense Minister Speaks

SK2307041590 Seoul Television Service in Korean 0000 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Statement by Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun at joint news conference with Unification Minister Hong Song-chol and Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam held at the No. 1 Government Building on 23 July—live]

[Text] Even though our people already know the truth, North Korea continues to claim that the antitank barrier, which we have installed in the forward area for defensive purposes, is a concrete wall aimed at cutting off people's travel and has linked it with various North-South dialogues. Even in response to the great national exchange recently proposed by our president, North Korea demanded that we remove the nonexistent wall as a precondition. As I will further elaborate later, despite the fact that no concrete wall designed to cut off people's travel exists, as the people at home and abroad know, and that the antitank barriers installed both in North and South Korea are certainly not intended to block the free travel of people, we have decided to willingly accept the North Korean proposal for a joint investigation of the concrete wall which it has demanded for some time in conformity with the aspirations of all the people to realize the great national exchange by all means which our president has proposed. This is the purpose of my press conference today.

In Kim Il-song's New Year's address on 1 January this year, North Korea claimed that the concrete wall installed in the South side of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] should be pulled down to allow people to travel freely and to promote full-scale openness. He also claimed that there are no barriers on the North's side, except for the barbed wire marking the border. Since then, North Korea has continued to call for a one-sided joint investigation and the removal of barriers only on our side through the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] meetings and in messages and statements to the South.

However, along the truce line on the Korean Peninsula, there is no city like Berlin, nor is there any need for a barrier to block people's travel, as North Korea claims exists, because there is a four-kilometer wide DMZ, which bans the free entry and exits of either side's personnel according to the Armistice Agreement.

When North Korea launched a surprise invasion of the South on 25 June 1950, with tanks leading the way, we, who did not have even one tank, suffered the bitter experience of losing Seoul in three days. Also, in 1962, North Korea adopted the so-called four-point military line and, stepping up an arms buildup and war preparations, significantly increased the number of tanks and armored vehicles in particular, thereby increasing the threat of a lightning war. Therefore, in the 1970's, we had to provide measures to cope with this situation. In the process, instead of countering in an offensive manner by increasing the number of tanks, we built an antitank barrier in conformity with our state's policy that it should be purely for defensive purposes. We built this antitank barrier only on roads through which armored corps could pass in the central and western fronts. We have not built antitank barriers along the entire truce line, as North Korea claims. Why should we spend large sums of money building a concrete wall along the entire truce line? The cost of doing so could exceed 1 trillion won. The area where our antitank barrier exists is not more than about 30 kilometers in length out of the total truce line that stretches 250 kilometers, or 150 miles. North Korea, however, has built an antitank barrier stretching some 70 kilometers, more than twice the length of ours. As for the barbed wire on the border, while ours is two deep, the North Korean side's is five to six deep, and includes high-voltage electric barbed wire to prevent defections by North Korean residents and officers and men of its army.

Like a thief crying "Stop Thief!," North Korea claims that a concrete wall exists only on our side while it has more antitank barriers and barbed wire than we do.

Moreover, our side has allowed Tokyo-based Soviet journalists and other reporters at home and abroad to visit the frontline areas so that they can see the truth firsthand. Those who have visited the area have clearly confirmed that there is no concrete wall aimed at blocking people's travel, as claimed by the North Korean side. This is proven by the fact that many North Korean officers and soldiers deployed along the truce line have defected to the South without being hindered at all by the antitank barrier on our side. The official Soviet media, Radio Moscow, on 19 July reported that the concrete wall as described by North Korea is an antitank barrier.

The North Korean side proposed to our unification minister and our president on 19 February and on 22 March, respectively, that a joint investigation team be formed to investigate only the wall in the area of our side. In response to this, our side proposed on 21 February and 7 April that the matters related to the DMZ be investigated by the MAC according to the Armistice Agreement, and that matters related to other areas be discussed through the holding of high-level talks. The North Korean side, however, has repeatedly demanded in a one-sided manner that a joint investigation be conducted only on the wall on our side. However, in conformity with the national aspiration that the great national exchange between the North and the South which the president has proposed should be realized by all means, we have decided to positively accommodate and accept the North side's proposal for a joint investigation. Therefore, a joint investigation can be conducted by the North side in any area of the South side of its choice, but, at the same time, for the sake of fairness and equality, the North side should guarantee that we too will be allowed to freely conduct investigation activities in North Korea. I also propose that the underground tunnels, which North Korea claims to have been dug by South Korea, be investigated extensively and openly before local and foreign reporters. For this purpose, I propose that a working-level meeting between three military officials from each side be held at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 1000 [0100 GMT] on Friday, 27 July 1990.

I urge the North Korean side to respond sincerely to our proposal so that the great national exchange between the North and the South, which is desired by the nation of 70 million people, will be realized without fail, and I look forward to the meeting on Friday.

Justice Minister Speaks

SK2307042090 Seoul Television Service in Korean 0000 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Statement by Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam at joint news conference with Unification Minister Hong Song-chol and Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun, held at the No. 1 Government Building on 23 July—live]

[Text] I am the minister of justice. I will talk about the issues of abolishing the National Security Law and of releasing those who have been arrested and imprisoned on charges of having illegally visited North Korea, which North Korea presented as preconditions to the realization of the national exchange proposed by President No Tae-u. I think that free travel between the North and the South can be realized only on the basis of mutual trust and respect between the North and the South, and I do not think that laws and systems in the North and the South and the issue of detainees should become obstacles to realizing an exchange between the North and the South.

I never heard East and West Germany make an issue of the laws and system of the other side or the issue of releasing detainees in the course of achieving their reunification. North Korea insists that the National Security Law is an obstacle to exchanges between the North and the South. However, as our people well know, the National Security Law is a defensive, security criminal law for defending the state and people from outside aggressive forces that threaten the territory and sovereignty of the ROK; it is not a law that threatens or attacks anyone, including North Korea. Accordingly, it is obvious that unless North Korea attempts to overthrow the liberal democratic system of the ROK and adheres to its line of communizing South Korea, no provisions of the National Security Law constitute obstacles that block dialogue and exchange between the North and the South.

Furthermore, we have already been discussing the issue of revising the National Security Law at the National Assembly as a process of preparing for reunification, not as a process of responding to the North Korean side's demands. At the same time, with the recent establishment of the law on exchange and cooperation between the North and the South, a legal system under which people's mutual visits and trade of materials will be possible between the North and the South has been established. Therefore, I firmly believe that there is no legal obstacle to realizing exchanges between the North and the South.

North Korea has also insisted on releasing so-called democratic personages who have been imprisoned on charges of having secretly visited North Korea. However, these personages have been punished in accordance with legal procedures, because their visits to North Korea were not for the sake of genuine exchange. I think that our people are also well aware of this. Therefore, we cannot understand why North Korea is making an issue of our domestic laws and system and domestic judicial actions as prerequisites to realizing exchanges.

Our government has never made an issue of North Korea's laws and system and human rights issue, including the detention of political prisoners in concentration camps. However, now, we cannot but ask how the laws on security are enforced in North Korea and how political prisoners have been handled there. The rules of the Workers' Party and the Constitution of North Korea, the supreme rules of North Korea, clearly dictate winning the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of the Korean Peninsula. They also dictate the fulfillment of the revolutionary task of the people's democracy for national liberation on a nationwide scale, thereby modeling the whole society after the chuche idea and building a communist society.

In a bid to carry out such a communist revolutionary task, North Korean criminal law stipulates provisions to punish counterrevolutionary crimes and brutally deal with counterrevolutionary criminals. In other words, the North Korean criminal law plays the role of a weapon carrying out communist revolutionary tasks. Accordingly, the North Korean criminal law is not a defensive, security law merely to defend the communist system but is an offensive, security criminal law to ferret out and smash counterrevolutionary and hostile elements that are against the so-called Korean national liberation struggle in a bid to achieve the communization of the entire Korean Peninsula.

The North Korean authorities define the ROK as the enemy and not only execute those who attempt to defect to the enemy side, but also confiscate their property. They have allowed an analogical interpretation [yuchu haesok], so that even in cases in which there are no clear provisions for punishment for their acts, criminals can be punished on the basis of other similar provisions. Thus, they have completely ignored the principle of legality, the basic principle of modern criminal law. They even punish, without exception, those charged with failing to report counterrevolutionary crimes. They have gone so far as to ignore the period of prescription in dealing with the charges of failing to report counterrevolutionary crimes. They enforce the guilt-by-association system of punishing even family members of criminals.

Thus, the criminal law on security affairs of North Korea is indeed horrible, and the North Korean authorities have been reluctant to make public the content of the law to the outside world because of its brutal nature. Besides this, according to a report of the international human rights organization, there are approximately 152,000 political prisoners detained in concentration camps. These concentration camps are located in 12 districts, including Hyeryong, Kangsong, Unsong, Sariwon, Yongpyon, and Yongkang. Among the detainees in these camps are Yi Kun-mo, former premier; Hong Song-yong, former vice premier; Kim Kyong-yong, former vice premier; Kim Pyong-hak, former minister of public security; Kim Chang-pong, former vice premier; and Pak Kum-chol, former vice premier.

The North Korean side says that it will accept our proposal for free travel between the North and the South if its preconditions are accepted. However, the North Korean people have been banned from traveling beyond their county. If North Korea continues to persist in the abolishment of our legal system and the release of detainees as preconditions to our proposal for national exchange, it should abolish its travel restrictions on North Korean people and the brutal criminal law on security affairs and should first release numerous political prisoners from the concentration camps.

Our government has not presented any preconditions whatsoever in realizing North-South exchanges. No condition is needed for the same nation to achieve harmony with each other and to confirm that it is the same nation with the same blood.

The problem is whether North Korea has the will and sincerity to achieve exchanges between the North and the South in a bid to create the foundation for the peaceful reunification of the country. Laws and systems, which are the domestic affairs of each side, should by no means become obstacles to exchange.

Nevertheless, we hope that those in authority of judicial affairs of the North and the South will meet together and frankly discuss all problems to create an environment conducive to reunification and to realize exchanges between the North and the South.

If those in authority of judicial affairs of the North and the South meet, we think that they can frankly discuss, without limitations, not only our National Security Law and the issue of detainees, as well as North Korea's criminal law on security affairs and political prisoners, but also the issue of legal and institutional interpretation in promoting North-South exchange. I also think that if necessary, the North and the South can exchange materials on laws.

To discuss these issues, I deem it necessary to hold talks between those in authority of judicial affairs of the North and the South. For the preparations of the talks, I propose that three people from each side hold a working level meeting at 1000 [0100 GMT] on 27 July at either Tongilgak or the House of Peace, whichever the North side prefers. Thank you.

USSR Suspends Help to DPRK Nuclear Plant

SK2107100990 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 Jul 90 p 2

[Report by correspondent Yi Nak-yon from Tokyo]

[Text] The Japanese daily YOMIURI SHIMBUN dated 21 July, citing remarks by a U.S. nuclear expert in Washington, reports that the Soviet Union has recently suspended assisting North Korea in the construction of nuclear power plant facilities.

According to YOMIURI SHIMBUN, this nuclear expert also observed that the Soviet Union is expected to continue with this assistance freeze until North Korea signs an agreement accepting the inspection of its nuclear power facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Soviet Union has assisted North Korea in constructing power plant facilities equipped with four nuclear reactors based on its agreement with North Korea signed in 1985.

North Korea signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985, but has been refusing to sign the verification agreement under the pretext that the United States has not eliminated the nuclear threat against it.

Opposition Heads, Dissidents Agree on One Party

SK2107001990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Two opposition party leaders and a representative of dissident organizations agreed yesterday that they will unite into one party as soon as possible.

Kim Tae-chung, president of the main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], Yi Ki-taek, president of the Democratic Party [DP], and pastor Kim Kwan-sok, the representative of the dissident groups promoting a unified opposition party concurred on making joint efforts for the creation of a new integrated party and on launching a collective struggle for a democratic government.

The two party leaders also declared that their parties' lawmakers will resign en masse in protest over the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's unilateral passing of the controversial bills during the just ended extra Assembly session.

The three leaders decided to form a working body of 15 members—five each from the three sides—to prepare for the merger. They also agreed to meet again at any time should the working level members ever fail to achieve an agreement.

In a press conference at the Korea Press Center, they demanded the government and ruling party withdraw the "evil" bills, hold general elections and practice local autonomy.

The governing Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has refused to accept the demands arguing that holding general elections at present runs contrary to the Constitution. A spokesman said if the opposition assemblymen resign, there will be by-elections and no general elections.

The emergence of an integrated opposition party will no doubt greatly influence the political situation of the country for a time, although the three forces are likely to encounter considerable difficulties in the course of merging into one party, observers said.

Such difficulties include the sharing of electoral districts for nominations and, most importantly, the make-up of the party's leadership.

DP president Yi Ki-taek made it clear that he will pursue the merger of the opposition parties at the risk of his own political life. "The merger is necessary in party to clear away the nation's ruinous "localism." "I will do my best to achieve the integration even if I may be regarded as traitor in my home area, Kyongsang-to, southeastern party of the country," he stated in a resolute manner.

In this vein, it has been assumed by analysts that the DP has accepted the election of Kim Tae-chung as president of the new party. But a spokesman of the DP strongly denied the possibility of any such compromise. "There have been no discussions about the matter and we couldn't even dream of such a thing. It will be discussed at the meeting of the 15 executive members," he said.

The controversial issue of the parliamentary cabinet system, however, was not mentioned in yesterday's meeting of the three although the two party leaders clearly expressed their objection to the system at a meeting earlier in the week.

One PPD and three DP lawmakers tendered resignations last week denouncing the DLP, which has 218 of the 299 seats, for its ramming through 26 bills including three controversial ones like laws on armed forces organization and related to broadcasting networks.

The three opposition forces will hold a mass rally in a Seoul park on Saturday [21 July]. They are expected to denounce the DLP and government in strong ever manners in the rally which is likely to be the largest mass rally since last year.

Police Prepare for Rally

SK2107024990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0217 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—More than 20,000 riot police were on full alert Saturday morning as opposition and dissident groups prepared for a massive anti-government rally in a Seoul park in the afternoon to protest the ruling party's irregular passage of bills through the National Assembly last week.

The rally, jointly hosted by Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], the Democratic Party [DP] and two leading dissident groups, is likely to be the largest since President No Tae-u took office in February 1988, with hundreds of thousands of protesters, many of them college students, expected to take part.

Police say they are worried about violent street protests after the rally in Boramae (Falcon) Park in western Seoul and will not tolerate illegal demonstrations, fueling fears of clashes between police troops and demonstrators.

It is the first time that Kim's party has hosted an outdoor rally in alliance with dissidents since No's inauguration. The PPD held a rally in the same park last August to protest the government's crackdown on anti-government forces under the so-called security politics, triggered mainly by a series of unauthorized visits to North Korea by a clergyman, a radical student and a PPD lawmaker.

All 70 PPD lawmakers and eight Democratic Party legislators, headed by Yi Ki-taek, have declared they will quit the National Assembly to protest the Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] "tyranny."

They demand that general and local elections reshape the assembly, which they say was artificially restructured by the merger of the ruling and two opposition parties in February in defiance of the people's will.

The opposition's combined majority vanished when the parties of Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil joined forces with No's party in an unprecedented political realignment. The DLP has 217 of the 299 Assembly seats. The DLP, using its overwhelming majority, railroaded five politically sensitive bills—revisions to the military organization law, three broadcasting-related laws and the law for compensating victims of the military suppression of the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising—through the Assembly in a irregular manner on July 14, triggering an acrimonious confrontation with the opposition parties.

Stunned by the ruling camp's arbitrary move, the heads of the PPD and DP and the Rev. Kim Kwan-sok, leader of the council for promoting a unified opposition party, a dissident group, declared Friday they will form a strong opposition alliance by integrating their three political forces into a new party. The soon-to-be-formed alliance may be a powerful challenger to No's rule, while raising fears of extreme political confrontation.

They set as a major goal the holding of general and local elections and vowed to launch a nationwide struggle to press the government to accept their demands. But they said they will not take the struggle to streets.

The three leaders also agreed to form a 15-man working-level committee to discuss details of their integration that will hold its first meeting late next week.

It is uncertain if discussions on integration will be smooth as they have striking differences over conditions, especially the format of the leadership, method of electing the party leader and shares of each of group in the new party.

It is widely believed Kim Tae-chung, a lifelong oppositionist who unsuccessfully vied twice for the presidency, against Pak Chong-hui in 1971 and No Tae-u in 1987, will become the first president of the new opposition party.

The ruling party rejects the opposition's call for general elections on the ground that dissolution of the National Assembly is unconstitutional. The DLP-controlled Assembly is expected to reject the opposition lawmakers' resignations. The ruling party said it will seek dialogue with the opposition to resolve the so-called political crisis after a cooling off period.

As for Saturday's rally, the opposition said it will use the occasion to increase public support for their anti-DLP struggle.

The opposition also plans to hold similar outdoor rallies in major cities, including Pusan, Kwangju and Taejon, in August to press the ruling party to call general and local elections.

Reaction to Merger

SK2207025090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Jul 90 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Varied Reactions"]

[Text] Reactions to the proposed merger of opposition forces seem to vary widely among ruling party lawmakers.

Lawmakers from Seoul areas expressed concern about any negative impact on their political standing in Seoul constituencies if the two opposition parties—the Party for Peace and Democracy and Democratic Party—are merged.

Some of the Seoul areas proved to be strong political bases for opposition leader Kim Tae-chung during the 1987 presidential election.

Lawmakers from Pusan and Kyongsang-to areas, however, cautiously observed that their political standing will be further strengthened if the DP merges with the PPD under the leadership of Kim Tae-chung.

Groups Hold Outdoor Rally

SK2107133390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1249 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 21 (YONHAP)—Leaders of opposition parties and dissident groups vowed to unite their forces to stage a nationwide campaign against the alleged political domination by President No Tae-u's ruling party in a biggest-ever outdoor rally in Seoul Saturday [21 Jul].

Waves of national flags and thunderings of clappings filled up a Seoul national park when opposition leader Kim Tae-chung called for a "grand solidarity" among opposition and dissident forces which he said was needed for breaking the ruling party's alleged plot to perpetuate its rule.

"Let's strike iron while it's hot. We should now form a new National Assembly by disbanding the present one and holding general elections," Kim, head of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), said in his speech to the ralliers packed at the 1.3 million-square meter wide Poramae (hawk) Park, western Seoul.

In the rally jointly hosted by the PPD, the Democratic Party (DP) and two umbrella dissident organizations, one of which is named "the Council for Promoting a Unified Opposition Party," Kim said, "the opposition integration has been promoted at such a rapid pace thanks to the irregular passage of controversial bills in the National Assembly by the No Tae-u government."

It is the first and biggest outdoor rally hosted jointly by the opposition parties and various dissident groups, including Chondaehyop, the national student representatives' council, since the inauguration of President No Tae-u in February 1988.

The rally was held in a show of indignation at the railroading of scores of legislative bills by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) last week. All 70 PPD and eight DP lawmakers have declared that they would resign from their parliamentary seats in protest against the railroading of the bills. The opposition lawmakers are to submit letters of resignation to the National Assembly speaker on Monday.

Rep. Yi Ki-taek, president of the DP, who joined hands with Kim for the creation of a new opposition party, urged Kim Yong-sam, the DLP chairman, to take responsibility for the passage of the 26 bills "in an arbitrary way" and resign from political life for good.

Kim Yong-sam, formerly an opposition party leader, is one of the three key figures behind the merger in January of three parties, including two opposition parties, which produced a greater ruling party. The DLP now commands 217 out of the total 299 seats in the unicameral National Assembly.

Touching upon the statement of Kim Yong-sam on Saturday that no parliamentary cabinet system is under consideration, Yi said, "How can we give credit to his words, now that he defected to the ruling party." He reminded that Kim Yong-sam used to express his confidence in the opposition's final victory during his 30-year-long struggle against the authoritarian rule, by saying "Morning comes even if one wrenches the neck of a cock."

The opposition parties have suspected the ruling party might try to adopt the parliamentary cabinet system in an effort to prolong its rule even after No completes his tenure of office in 1993.

Meanwhile, there were no violent clashes reported between the riot troopers and the ralliers during and after the rally, as the rally leaders pleaded the participants to make the rally a peaceful one.

Similar outdoor rallies are to be staged in other major cities, including Pusan, Kwangju and Taejon, next month.

Entire Parliamentary Opposition Resigns

SK2307081490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Two independent and 74 opposition lawmakers handed their resignations to National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu on Monday, calling for dissolution of the National Assembly and general elections.

The resignation of the entire opposition is part of a struggle to topple the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), which they accuse of trying to stay in power for good.

Four lawmakers—three from the Democratic Party led by Yi Ki-taek and one from the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) led by Kim Tae-chung—initiated the resignations July 13.

The resigning lawmakers, protesting the DLP's unilateral passage of controversial bills in the last special assembly session, comprise 70 from the PPD, eight from the Democratic Party and two independents. Rep. So Kyong-won, an independent who is in prison for traveling to Pyongyang in 1988, sent his resignation through an attorney.

The DLP, which has 217 seats in the 299-member Assembly, has asked the speaker to reject the resignations. It also rejects the opposition call for elections on the grounds that there is no provision in the Constitution for dissolving the National Assembly.

The two opposition parties and a dissident group are moving to form a single opposition party and recently agreed to form an alliance. The three jointly held an anti-ruling party rally in a Seoul park on Saturday.

The ruling party will allow a cooling off period before seeking dialogue next month on issues such as local elections and the controversial National Security Law.

A prolonged stalemate is expected since the opposition parties are so adamant that they will not negotiate with the ruling party unless it agrees to call general and local elections and has a positive attitude on revising "evil laws."

PPD and Democratic Party legislators resolved to give up their National Assembly memberships in general meetings Monday morning.

They decided to stop taking their salaries from August and evacuate their offices from the National Assembly building.

The resignations are expected to expedite the movement to merge the opposition.

Kim Tae-chung said the resignations not only dealt a blow to the "ruling camp's plot to hold power for good" but created a basis for an opposition merger.

"It is an overwhelming truth that the people want to give political power to a united opposition party once the opposition is united in one party," he said.

Kim predicted that the opposition merger would take place in August because the three parties are in complete agreement.

DLP Reacts to Resignations

SK2307090990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0840 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) said Monday that the resignations tendered by opposition lawmakers should be returned and called the mass resignation a "political strategic plan" to confuse politics.

It was decided at an emergency party affairs meeting to begin back-room negotiations after a cooling-off period to normalize politics before the National Assembly reconvenes in September, informed government sources said.

Speaker Pak Chun-kyu was assigned to make a final decision on the resignations submitted to him by all 76 lawmakers of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) and Democratic Party (DP), who have shown a strong dislike of the "arbitrary" passage of scores of bills and demanded general elections, they said.

Pak said he told PPD head Kim Tae-chung that though he had the authority to accept the resignations he would consult with groups in the Assembly because lawmakers represent the people.

Pak suggested he would follow his party's decision on the resignations when he said, "I will make enough explanations of the resignations to the Democratic Liberal Party, the first negotiation group."

The opposition parties say some of the 26 bills passed on July 14, including broadcasting laws, are designed to keep the DLP in power after President No Tae-u's term in office expires in 1993 and joined hands with dissident groups in an anti-government rally Saturday to kick off rallies in major cities in August.

In a bid to return the resignations and prevent rallies outside the Assembly, the DLP will form a sub-committee to prepare for talks with the opposition on the controversial bills.

The sub-committee, under the DLP policy committee, is the result of a proposal last week by DLP Chairman Kim Yong-sam to form a ruling-opposition standing organization to discuss the bills.

The DLP is seeking ways to prevent party nomination in local elections or revision of the National Security Law, which bans contact with North Korea.

Prior to the Assembly session and talks between the South and North Korean prime ministers in September, the DLP hopes to end political confrontation while getting the opposition to withdraw their resignations and normalize the National Assembly.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae, demanding an immediate halt to anti-government rallies, said: "The PPD's refusal to talk and its pushing ahead with the rally on Saturday is raising fears of a violent revolution.

"The PPD should reveal clearly whether it is for democracy or for violent revolution, and its nasty personal attacks and filthy abuse at Saturday's rally will bring out distrust of the people against all politicians."

DLP To Shelve Plans for Cabinet System

SK2107001390 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Jul 90 p 2

[By staff reporter Sin Hak-lim]

[Text] PUSAN—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is believed to have given up its plan to seek constitutional revision to introduce the parliamentary cabinet system for now in the face of worsening relations with the opposition party.

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the government party, is expected to declare the fact today.

An aide to Kim let on the fact that Kim won an agreement from President No Tae-u and other party leaders including Rep. Kim Chong-pil on the matter of shelving the plan to revise the Constitution.

The constitutional revision issue has been a major cause of potential intra-party feuding among the three components of the large ruling party.

In particular, the mainstream faction originating from No's old ruling Democratic Justice Party has been positive in promoting the constitutional change.

Earlier, President No said that his party would not try to change the form of next government in defiance of the will of the opposition and the people.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae commented, "President No and executive chairman Kim share the same view about the constitutional revision issue."

Opposition leaders Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek already renewed their opposition to the possible introduction of the parliamentary cabinet system, vowing an all-out struggle against the ruling camp in their meeting on Thursday.

In the meantime, Kim Yong-sam handed over the chairmanship of the West (So) chapter of Pusan City to Kwak Chong-chol, a former lawmaker of the now-dissolved DJP, in a rally here yesterday.

In April, Kim Yong-sam was elected chairman of the DLP's local chapter, where he was elected to the National Assembly seven times, but he tendered his resignation to give chairmanship to Kwak.

Speaking to the the rally, Kim asserted that the opposition should discard old-time political behavior such as obstructing Assembly sessions and violence. He was justifying the DLP's unilateral passage of 26 bills and motions, citing violent objections from the opposition during the extra session of the National Assembly which ended early this week.

The former opposition leader said, "I don't want the opposition forces to remain split. I hope that the opposition will grow as a healthy political force and I am ready to have heart-to-heart talks with Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy, to solve the questions related to the introduction of the local autonomy system and other issues."

Kim Yong-sam Interviewed

SK2207025690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Jul 90 p 2

["Excerpts" of news interview with Democratic Liberal Party Chairman Kim Yong-sam by reporters in Pusan on 21 July]

[Text] Question: The opposition forces insist that the ruling party's move to rewrite the Constitution to adopt a parliamentary cabinet system is tantamount to an attempt to perpetuate its rule. What is your comment on that?
Answer: The power structure is a highly sensitive and important issue. I have already made it clear that there would be no constitutional revision if the vast majority of the people are opposed to the system, not to mention the opposition parties. It is true that there have been some in the ruling camp who support the parliamentary cabinet system but such opinions are purely individual and have nothing to do with the official party line. The ruling party has never offered a constitutional revision and has no plans to do so in the future.

Q: What is your answer to the widespread rumor that co-leader of the ruling party including yourself signed a secret agreement on introduction of the parliamentary cabinet system. If so, is it still valid?
A: Any agreement on such an issue is unthinkable. If the parliamentary system is to be materialized, such an important matter should be discussed by the ruling party's official organs before it is officially adopted as the party's official policy. It then should be officially brought before the National Assembly. President No Tae-u has already declared that he would not push for a constitutional revision in favor of the system unless the people support it. He told me as much when I met him. Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun, co-chairmen of the ruling party, shared the same view with me.

I simply don't understand why this issue is becoming a target of the opposition forces despite repeated and outright denials by the ruling party leaders.

Q: Could you then make it absolutely clear that there will be no constitutional revision during the 13th National Assembly term?
A: There will be no such development as long as the opposition parties are against it.

Q: The opposition parties demand dissolution of the National Assembly and early general elections. What is your answer to such a request?
A: Under the Constitution, nobody is supposed to dissolve the National Assembly at his will. Under the circumstances, there is no way to dissolve the Assembly as both the Constitution and the National Assembly Law lack any article backing up legal dissolution of the Assembly.

In other words, the demand for dissolution of the Assembly is nothing more than an irresponsible act to bring about a national crisis by suspending the Constitution.

Q: What is your comment on the inter-Korean free travel proposal made by President No Tae-u Friday?
A: It is a historical and epoch-making proposal aimed at improving inter-Korea relations. North Korea should not utilize the internal political situation in the south for south-north talks. I made the same point when I met with Ho Tam, a member of the north Korean politburo, in Moscow in 1989.

Q: As a follow-up to the inter-Korea free travel proposal, do you have any plans to rewrite or repeal the National Security Law and Act on the Agency for National Security Planning?
A: We will consider rewriting of the two laws in a forward-looking manner. As soon as the interparty consultative body becomes operational pending further negotiation with the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], our party is prepared to discuss with the opposition ways to cope with inter-Korea relations.

Q: What do you think about the outdoor rally organized by the PPD in Seoul?
A: In the past, opposition parties used to resort to outdoor rallies to express themselves when their political activities in parliament were restricted or oppressed. Things have changed a lot. At present, there is neither a one-man dictatorship nor restrictions on political activities. Out-of-parliament activities would not draw much support from the people as such activities only cause popular unrest.

Q: Does the ruling party have any intention to accept the opposition's demand to involve political parties in recommending candidates for the local councils?
A: The PPD crippled the National Assembly by demanding a political party nomination system for local council candidates. It was mainly because of the partisan interests of the PPD. The ruling party is prepared to discuss this and other issues of contention with the PPD when the interparty consultative body becomes operational.

Q: As a follow-up to the inter-Korea free travel proposal made by President No, do you plan to recommend that President No release Yim Su-kyong, the Hanguk University of Foreign Studies coed, and the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, who were arrested for their illegal trips to north Korea?
A: From the point of national reconciliation, it is worth considering.

Q: It is rumored that major party postholders will be reshuffled sometime. What is your reply to this rumor?

A: It is not true that party postholders will be reshuffled.

Remarks Challenged

SK2207033590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Rep. Kim Chong-pil and Rep. Pak Tae-chun, both co-chairmen of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, said the ruling camp should give a push to the introduction of the parliamentary cabinet system.

Challenging executive chairman Kim Yong-sam, the two leaders of the ruling party argued the party's plan for the parliamentary cabinet system should not be deterred by whatever objections of the opposition camp including outdoor rallies.

Chief executive Kim hinted at shelving the plan in his press conference in Pusan yesterday. He said his party would not insist on the adoption of the new form of government if it is opposed by the opposition party and the people.

The two co-chairmen said, however, it is not wise for the party's plans on the parliamentary system to be swayed by situational difficulties caused by the all-out campaign by the opposition camp.

Co-chairman Kim said one purpose of adopting the parliamentary system is to make unification easier.

Besides this, he said the main purpose for merging three parties into the present ruling party should be found there.

Cabinet System Accord Cited

SK2307085690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0659 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Seoul, July 23 (YONHAP)—A top ruling party official confirmed Monday that President No Tae-u has an agreement with other heads of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) to push for a cabinet system of government.

Park Tae-chun told reporters he knew of the agreement No and party chairman Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil made in May, prior to the inauguration of the DLP, but had not actually seen the document.

He is the first ruling camp official to publicly verify that a written agreement exists on modifying the system of government.

Kim Yong-sam has persistently denied rumors that he made such a deal with No before the merger of their parties with that of Kim Chong-pil in February.

Pak added, however, that regardless of the agreement the change to a cabinet system should not be made unless it is approved by the people and the opposition.

No Tae-u Interviewed on Relations With USSR

WA2307152490

For excerpts of an interview with ROK President No Tae-u by Soviet correspondent Vladislav Dunayev, in which No discusses ROK-USSR relations, see the Northeast Asia section of the 23 July Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Burma

Government Forms Election Tribunal No. 1

BK2007142990 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has issued Announcement No. 18/90 dated 20 July 1990—14th day of the waning moon of Warzo, Burmese Era 1352. The full text of the announcement reads:

Formation of Election Tribunal No. 1

1. In accordance with Article 65-A of the 1989 People's Assembly Elections Law, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has formed Election Tribunal No. 1 with the following members:

A. U Tin Ohn, retired director of the Central Law Office, as chairman;
B. U Khin Maung, retired director of the Central Law Office, as member;
C. U Myint Tun, retired deputy director of the Central Law Office as member.

2. Election Tribunal No. 1 shall investigate the election complaint filed from the following person:

Name of person who filed: U Tin Ngwe [candidate from the National League for Democracy]
Names of persons against whom the complaint is filed: Nai Khin Maung [elected candidate from Mon National Democratic Front] and four persons
Name of constituency: Kyaikmaraw constituency No. 2, Mon State.

By the authority vested in me
Maung Ko, secretary, the Government of the Union of Myanmar

Khun Sa Warns of Clash With Thai Forces

BK2307014590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jul 90 pp 1, 3

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Mai Hoong, Burma—Shan resistance leader and reputed opium warlord Khun Sa has accused Thailand of supporting a rival ethnic army in Burma and said the situation could deteriorate into a clash between his forces and Thai troops. The leader of the Mong Tai Army [MTA], talking with reporters last week, charged that Thailand was deliberately assisting ethnic Wa forces by permitting them to transport ammunition and troops through Thai territory into Burma.

The Mong Tai Army and the Wa forces have been engaged since February in battles in the disputed Doi Lang mountain range, which divides Thailand and Burma in Chiang Mai's Mae Ai district.

Khun Sa, commander-in-chief of the MTA, also accused Thailand of allowing the Wa to take over two of several Thai bases located on the Doi Lang range, giving the Wa an upper hand against his forces. His aide, Khernsai Jaiyane, said the MTA and the Thai army had reached a "gentleman's agreement" in 1987 that the MTA would withdraw from Doi Lang and let the Thai troops occupy the MTA bases on condition that Thailand would not allow forces of other Burma's ethnic resistance or the Burma Communist Party to occupy the area.

According to his report, the Wa on July 11 and 12 transported some 60 heavily-armed fighters and artillery pieces in two trucks through Ban Hua Chaw in Mae Ai District to Ban Tha Ton, facing Doi Lang. The Thai soldiers fled as soon as the Wa took the bases, according to Khun Sa. The Shan leader said he was "very angry" upon learning that the Thai paramilitary troopers stationed in Doi Lang fled the bases, adding that he had repeatedly asked for Thailand to send troops back in to reinforce the area. He accused Thailand of taking such moves at "the orders of the United States." Thai authorities were not avilable for comment yesterday.

The United Wa State Party [UWSP] and the MTA have been fighting over control of the Doi Lang area, which is believed to contain a number of drug-trafficking routes, continually since February. The two parties clashed last November over control of the mountainous area opposite the Thai village of Arunothai in Chiang Dao District. Khun Sa said he has sent six letters to UWSP leader Chao Yi-Lai asking for a settlement of the conflict.

In response to Khun Sa's calls, said Khernsai Jaiyane, MTA chief liaison officer, the UWSP issued a statement demanding that the Mong Tai Army withdraw its troops from the Doi Lang area and said Khun Sa was a world criminal who should be prosecuted rather than acting as head of the Tai Revolutionary Council, the political wing of the Shan resistance.

Khun Sa has been called the largest heroin trafficker in Southeast Asia by the US government and independent groups, and is wanted in the United States on drug charges.

The UWSP is the main force of the now defunct Burma Communist Party [BCP]. The Wa members toppled the hardline pro-China Burman leaders early last year and have since controlled Pangh-sang, the former headquarters of the BCP, in Burma's Shan State.

Khun Sa accused the UWSP of being the "ghost" of the BCP (maintaining the communist ideology), and urged Thailand to choose whether it wanted his MTA or the UWSP to stay in Doi Lang. "If they (Thailand) want the Wa, then just tell us frankly, we will move out of there," said Khun Sa. He added that if the situation continued he might eventually "be unable to control my Doi Lang forces." He said he feared that Thai border villagers might be affected if the situation got out of hand. "Troops are troops. They choose to die but never to surrender. And if they (MTA fighters) get nothing to eat then I fear they'll go and get it in Mae Ai," he said, and added that the MTA forces there "might clash" with

Thai troops. He said he would not give orders to his troops to withdraw if they found themselves in a desperate situation.

Khernsai cited intelligence reports as predicting a deteriorating situation and that the two ethnic forces would have a "decisive" battle in the near future. He said the MTA had detected a huge mobilization of ammunition and troops on the Wa side, but added that he believed the Wa would agree to hold talks if they lost in the coming battle.

The MTA has suffered about 300 casualties since February, of which more than 80 were killed, while the UWSP, which has been employing some 6,000 fighters, now had only 4,000 left, Khun Sa claimed.

Thai Paper Reports Interview With Khun Sa

BK2307013190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jul 90 p 2

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Mai Hoong, Burma—Khun Sa, one of the most wanted men in the United States on drug charges, is living a tranquil life in a mist-capped mountain hideout in Burma's southern Shan State, in the middle of the notorious Golden Triangle.

At 56, the leader of the Mong Tai Army, which is fighting for an independent Shan State, looks much younger than his years and extremely fit, his well-built body larger than most of his Shan compatriots.

With him all the time is his "third leg," a wooden walking stick, which his aides say he uses out of habit rather than for support. "I will give it to a museum, once I get my country (Shan State) back from Burma," said Khun Sa, who is normally addressed as Chom Pong Suk (commander-in-chief) by his subordinates and the Shan people in general. Also by his side is an ever-present pistol. "I can shoot without turning around and I can shoot straight ahead. I hit my target," he told a couple of Thai reporters who interviewed him last Tuesday.

Khun Sa, known as Chang Si-Fu in Chinese, was indicted last December by a US jury on ten separate narcotic charges—smuggling and attempting to smuggle thousands of kilogrammes of heroin into the United States between September 1986 and February 1988. He has denied all the charges, which were made public on March 15.

"Chao (a royal title of the Shan people) Khun Sa is living all right. He does his usual activities. There is no change (in his life)," said an aide when asked if things have changed since the indictment.

"I usually get up around six. I have some tea, coffee and my breakfast," said Khun Sa, who speaks fluent Thai. "Then I start working. I have a lot of work."

What keeps him most busy is visitors, his interpreter and aide Khernsai Jaiyane said. "Those who come to see him are usually merchants, Thais or others," he said, adding that his chief often complains if he has no guests.

"Chao Khun Sa doesn't want to meet you in Ho Mong because there are too many people there, and a lot of merchants often come to meet him, so we arranged for an interview here (Mai Hoong)," an aide told the reporters.

Ho Mong is the headquarters of Khun Sa's Tai Revolutionary Council and its military wing, the Mong Tai Army. It is located some seven hours on horseback from Huai Phueng, a small Thai border village in Mae Hong Son Province. After his former headquarters—Ban Hin Taek, located in Thailand's Mae Chan District of Chiang Rai—was overrun by Thai troops in 1982, Khun Sa moved his forces to the Ho Mong area. However, there was a clash in 1985 over control of the land, on the east of the Salween River, with the Kuomintang (KMT), nationalist Chinese who fled from China after the Communist takeover in 1949.

During the four-day stay, the reporters witnessed Khun Sa with two of his closest companions—Dam and Daeng, two houses from a large stable of Shan steeds. Khun Sa has long had a passion for horse breeding. "He has cultivated the talent since he was a kid. His grandfather taught him," Khernsai said.

"There are some 2,000 horses and mules now, there used to be only about 1,000," said Khun Sa, whose name means "prosperous prince." As he looked over his horses, the resistance leader placed himself to ensure the reporters took good pictures of him.

"He's a showman," said Khernsai, adding that Khun Sa "wants people to like him. He doesn't understand it when people dislike him. If he thinks he has treated people well and they like him for it, he's at ease."

The aide visibly angered when talking about a US congressman's description of Khun Sa as a "Prince of Death." "He should actually be called a "freedom fighter," said Khernsai. The aide claimed that although the Mong Tai Army collects protection fees from heroin laboratories and drugs passing through their territory, the group is itself not involved in the drug trade.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Review Planned for Commonwealth Election Watch

BK2107151390 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The government is to review its proposal to have independent observers from the Commonwealth to monitor the coming general elections. The prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, said the government is worried about the role of the observer group as it appeared to have been influenced by the Election Watch. The government knows that the Election Watch is biased and feels the Commonwealth group might have been contaminated by the Election Watch. The group should be independent and free. He said that he would bring up the matter during the coming weekly cabinet meeting.

Answering questions by newsmen in Muar, Johor, this evening, he said the Election Watch had sent a letter to the Commonwealth secretary general, (Chief Enika Anyoku), and based on that letter, the secretary general sent a two-man team to Kuala Lumpur last Tuesday [17 July]. This was done despite the fact that the government had not yet made an official decision to invite the Commonwealth team. He had [word indistinct] to the previous Secretary General Sir [name indistinct] and it was suggested that the prime minister get approval from all the opposition parties. This has been done and the DAP [Democratic Action Party] secretary general, Encik [Mr.] Lim Kit Siang, has already agreed to the proposal. But before the government could act, the Election Watch intervened and invited the Commonwealth team. [passage indistinct]

Group Urges Support for Election Commission

BK2107090690 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] A newly formed group has called on the government not to entertain any party or individual wishing to interfere in the country's election process, saying that the Election Commission has proven its integrity in conducting general elections in the past. Chairman of the group, [name indistinct], said the government and the people in the country should have confidence in the Commission. He told a news conference in Kuala Lumpur that the group does not tolerate any attempt by individuals or groups, Malaysian or non-Malaysian, to undermine the position and integrity of the Commission in the (?electoral process).

Singapore

Lee Says U.S. Cambodia Policy 'Dangerous'

BK2007160690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1554 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Singapore, July 20 (AFP)—Singapore's Prime Minister [PM] Lee Kuan Yew said Friday that Washington's withdrawal of recognition for the Cambodian resistance coalition in the United Nations was a dangerous precedent.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Mr Lee said that declaring the U.N. seat of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea vacant would signal to the Khmer Rouge, the dominant resistance coalition partner, that unless they captured more ground they would be shut out altogether. He added that it was a dangerous precedent for a nation to declare that a member of the United Nations was no longer a member.

The interview was reported by the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in its late news bulletin.

"To prevent the Khmer Rouge from winning on the battlefield, which is the reason for the sudden shift in policy, you need more than just a vacant seat at the United Nations and discussions with Vietnam on what to do about Cambodia," Mr. Lee said. "Somebody has to go down to Cambodia and do the fighting against the Khmer Rouge, and the Vietnamese have been doing it for 11 years and didn't succeed. So, unless there are special plans to have an intervention force, this cannot be done by force of arms," the prime minister said.

Mr. Lee did not think Wednesday's shift in U.S. policy would lead to a serious rift with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), comprising Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. ASEAN has been one of the biggest backers of the tripartite coalition. Besides the radical Khmer Rouge, the coalition includes two non-communist factions led by former prime minister Son Sann and Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

He said if the Khmer Rouge were to be blocked by force, then "force must be used."

Mr. Lee told BBC that he could not understand how the move by the United States, which has helped supply and arm the two non-communist resistance groups, could prevent the Khmer Rouge from taking power. "My question is, who provides the force?" Mr. Lee asked. He asked who the chosen representatives of the Cambodian people would be if a U.N. interim administration paved the way for a free vote. "You need the Khmer Rouge and China to be parties of that agreement," he said

He also felt that the shift in U.S. policy has proved to the Vietnamese that it had paid to stall. The Vietnamese now have even less incentive to give ground or force the client government in Phnom Penh to make concessions. "It is being handed over to them on a platter by the efforts of the world media, primarily the U.S. media that's been gunning for the Khmer Rouge," he said.

The prime minister said the U.S. move was puzzling and added that he hoped an upcoming meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would provide some answers. Mr. Baker is due here July 30 after attending the ASEAN ministerial meeting in Jakarta starting Monday.

Cambodia

More on Phnom Penh's Reaction to U.S. Stand

SPK Lauds 'Righteous Decision'

BK2107065990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0544 GMT 21 Jul 90

["U.S. Administration Has Made a Righteous Decision"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 21—While the peace process on Cambodia was in a stalemate due to the recalcitrance of the Beijing-patronized Khmer Rouge Polpotists, the U.S. Administration has made a righteous decision.

The declaration made on Wednesday by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker not rpt not to recognize the Cambodian tripartite coalition seated at the United Nations was a step in the right direction taken by the Bush administration to prevent the return to power of the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime to Cambodia.

Everybody knows that the Khmer Rouge Polpotists never want real peace for the Cambodian people. They always want to settle everything on the battlefield instead of at the negotiating table though their force has proven unequal to their ambition.

The new position of the United States conforms with the long-standing aspiration of the Cambodian people and the world public, including senior American officials and the American people at large. The Cambodian people warmly welcome this constructive stance of the United States and consider it as a new encouragement in their cause of national defence and reconstruction, especially in their struggle to prevent the return of the genocidal regime. This decision paves the way for the achievement of an early political settlement of the Cambodian conflict and enable the United Nations to play its honourable and appropriate role in resolving the Cambodian issue.

The Cambodian people have time and again expressed their wish for an early and fair solution to the Cambodian problem on the basis of respecting their right to self-determination. The Government of the State of Cambodia, the only legitimate representative of the entire Cambodian people, has always shown its goodwill to cooperate with the parties and countries concerned in the search for a real and durable peace for their homeland devastated by a protracted war conducted by the Khmer reactionary group with the Beijing-patronized Khmer Rouge as the military backbone.

This goodwill has gained more and more support from the world public and now from the U.S. Administration. The Khmer Rouge Polpotists, finding themselves in utter isolation at every international forum, cannot now hide the sun with the palm of their hand by covering up the reality in Cambodia and the crimes they perpetrated during their reign from 1975-79. Public opinions are calling for vacating Cambodia's seat at the next UN General Assembly. By criticizing the new decision of the U.S. Administration, the Khmer Rouge Polpotists and the Beijing ruling circles will face ever greater isolation, as will Prince Norodom Sihanouk. But the latter is pardonable because he will make a complete about-face when he realizes how unpopular his is. Prince Sihanouk is now having a good chance to free himself from being a hostage to the Khmer Rouge Polpotists and rejoin his compatriots who were also victims of the genocidal regime.

The Cambodian people warmly welcome the positive response made by the governments of Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Japan... to the new policy of the U.S. Administration regarding the Cambodian problem.

To prevent the return of the Pol Pot genocidal regime in Cambodia is the imperative task of the Cambodian people as well as the whole mankind. We hope that the Khmer Rouge and their patron in Beijing will agree to return to the negotiating table to resolve the Cambodian problem by peaceful means. As immediate steps, they must cooperate in setting up the supreme national council in keeping with the Tokyo joint communique signed between Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk on June 5, 1990, observe a cease-fire, stop receiving foreign military aid, and take part in holding free and fair general elections under UN supervision.

Paper Welcomes Statement

BK2107140690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 Jul 90

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "We Welcome the New U.S. Stance on the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] Recently, when representatives of the five major powers, permanent members of the UN Security Council, met and discussed the Cambodian problem for the fifth time in Paris, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made a statement on the U.S. Government's new and significant stance on the Cambodian problem. This statement clearly shows that the major goal of U.S. policy on the Cambodian problem is to prevent the Pol Pot group from seizing power in Phnom Penh again. As a new measure to prevent the return of the genocidal regime in Cambodia, the Washington government will cease to recognize Cambodia' seat in the United Nations, which is occupied by the Pol Pot group.

This is the new and official stance of the United States contributing with great significance to the search for security and peace for the Cambodian people. This is being followed by world public opinion which welcomes and pays great attention to it. It should be noted that until now, the most important obstacle in the path to peace in Cambodia through a political solution remains the danger of the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return. This should be urgently solved. The elimination of the Pol Pot group is the basis of a solution to the Cambodian problem.

We welcome the measure to leave Cambodia's UN seat vacant, proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, to eliminate every maneuver to use the United Nations to oppose the Cambodian people and to support and protect the genocidal Pol Pot clique. If this measure can be implemented, it certainly constitutes a concrete contribution to preventing the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning to power in Cambodia and pressuring this hard-headed, warmongering, and bloody group to return to the negotiating table to continue implementing whatever was essentially agreed upon in the Tokyo joint statement of 5 June 1990.

The Cambodian people, direct victims of the unjust genocidal regime, consider this a fine and constructive gesture of the U.S. Government in paving an important road toward a quick political solution in Cambodia. The Cambodian people hope that the United States, as a major power and also a permanent member of the UN Security Council, will show concrete activities behind this new stance which creates a new possibility and a new turning point to contribute to the search for security and peace in Cambodia as people have expected.

Sihanouk, Son Sann Criticized

BK2207144990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Station commentary: "An Unreasonable Panic"]

[Text] On Thursday [19 July], the other Cambodian side, particularly the Sihanouk and Son Sann groups, greatly panicked because of the decision by the U.S. Government, which has changed its policy on the Cambodian problem. Although U.S. Secretary of State James Baker clearly affirmed that the decision to stop recognizing the resistance movement's seat in the United Nations was made to prevent the Khmer Rouge bandits from returning to power in Cambodia and that the United States will provide support for the two non-communist groups, Samdech Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Ranariddh have bitterly criticized this decision.

Samdech Sihanouk said in a message from Pyongyang to Ranariddh that this U.S. decision is a very unjust one. The Cambodian people would like to ask this question: How does this U.S. decision affect Samdech Sihanouk and Son Sann? If the tripartite coalition loses the seat in the United Nations, what do Samdech Sihanouk and Son Sann lose? Countries in the region, the UN Security Council, and peace- and justice-loving public opinion the world over have focused attention on the major role of the United Nations in solving the Cambodian problem. The State of Cambodia has already agreed to let this supreme international body play an appropriate role in solving the Cambodian problem in the event that the United Nations leaves the Cambodian seat vacant. Thus, the fact that the United States and a number of other countries have decided to stop supporting the tripartite alliance's occupation of Cambodia's seat is an important key for the United Nations to be neutral in the Cambodian problem. Furthermore, since Sihanouk and Son Sann have sided with the Pol Pot group and sit together in the United Nations, what have the samdech and Son Sann done to benefit the motherland?

On this issue, no one is surprised. Samdech Sihanouk and Son Sann have used the UN forum to openly defend the genocidal Pol Pot regime by trying to find every means to drag the United Nations into adopting successive erroneous resolutions on the Cambodian problem. From Cambodia's seat in the United Nations, the samdech and Son Sann have appealed for open and secret international assistance for the so-called resistance movement to destroy and oppose the Cambodian people's rebirth. Is this justice for the samdech and Son Sann?

For the past 11 years, the State of Cambodia's government has had no desire to occupy Cambodia's seat in the United Nations; it has only called on this seat to be left vacant the way it was done within the Nonaligned Movement. Most seriously hit was the traitorous Pol Pot clique, which is more and more isolated and denounced and exposed. Another ridiculous thing is that Samdech Sihanouk has shamelessly stated that this U.S. decision will push the so-called resistance groups to continue fighting more vigorously.

We ask this question: Is the samdech currently working to keep Cambodia's seat in the United Nations or for the Cambodian people's interests? If the samdech is working for the Cambodian people, he should rejoice with the people over this U.S. decision because it is a measure among other effective ones to move toward ending the Cambodian people's suffering. However, if the samdech persists in continuing the fighting, it means that he betrays the Cambodian people's interests, defends the murderous clique, and even encourages this clique to avoid going to the negotiating table.

Tie Banh Receives Former U.S. Ambassador Dean

BK2107084590 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0603 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 21—"The government and people of Cambodia ardently aspire to peace. An acceptable political solution aimed at putting an early end to the Cambodian people's sufferings must ensure the prevention of the return of the universally condemned genocidal Pol Pot clique".

This was stated by Tie Banh, minister of defence of the State of Cambodia, while receiving in Phnom Penh Thursday [19 July] morning John Gunther Dean, U.S. ambassador to Cambodia from 1973 to 1975.

Tie Banh, who is also Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, informed his American guest of the current developments in the country, particularly the setbacks sustained recently by the Khmer Rouge polpotists in their subversive attempt against the Cambodian Government.

Senior-Lieautenant General Tie Banh reaffirmed that the State of Cambodia welcomes any contribution by foreigners and overseas Khmers to the development in Cambodia.

For his part, John Gunther Dean said he was glad to visit the country again after the termination of his mission here in 1975. He said he would inform the American public back home of the reality in Cambodia, and urge them to contribute to the search for peace in this country.

The American official left here the same day ending his week-long visit to Cambodia.

Resistance Continues Response to U.S. Shift

VODK Cites Sihanouk

BK2307023290 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] On 20 July in Pyongyang, His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian president, granted an audience to Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea. On that occasion, the samdech said: The United States' decision on withdrawing recognition of the UN seat of the Cambodian National Resistance Forces [CNRF] is unjust and unfair. He added: Cambodia's seat at the United Nations has been recognized by the majority of the UN members, and the U.S. decision is a reward to Hanoi and the Phnom Penh regime it has installed in Cambodia.

The samdech reiterated: The CNRF stance is for a comprehensive and fair political settlement of the Cambodian problem and that a supreme national council should be composed of the four Cambodian parties in order to organize an election of a government. The CNRF will continue to fight until Cambodia wrests back its full independence. He expressed the hope for continued world support for the Cambodian National Government's seat in the United Nations.

VODK Cites Spokesman

BK2307032890 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] On 19 July in Bangkok, the spokesman of the office of the personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia told a XINHUA correspondent that the U.S. decision to expunge recognition of the Cambodian resistance's seat at the United Nations was an unprecedented wrong signal which will never enhance a settlement of the Cambodian problem. He added that the Cambodian resistance forces [CRF] have been terribly astonished by the U.S. statement which was made at the time when the five permanent members of the UN Security Council were trying to seek a comprehensive political settlement for the Cambodian problem.

The spokesman also quoted Prince Norodom Ranariddh, commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, as saying: The U.S. move is a bad action after having recognized the CRF seat in the United Nations for the past 11 years. The withdrawal of recognition will not mean the end of the fighting by the resistance against the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh regime and cannot break up the unity of the Cambodian National Government.

Son Sann Views Policy

PM2307100890 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 19 Jul 90 p 11

[Interview with Son Sann, prime minister of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, by Renaud de Chazournes; place and date not given]

[Text] [De Chazournes] The United States has just announced that it no longer recognizes the tripartite government which you head. How do you interpret this American about-face?
[Son Sann] That statement by the U.S. secretary of state relates to the forthcoming UN session. He announced that his country will not vote for our coalition government. I immediately requested Prince Sihanouk's agreement on convening an emergency meeting in Bangkok or Paris—before the end of the month, I hope—of the three parties in our coalition to adopt a joint position.

It is obvious that this change of course by U.S. diplomacy may play into the hands of Hanoi and its allies in power in Phnom Penh. In my view this decision was largely dictated by U.S. public opinion which criticizes us for our alliance with Pol Pot. But I note with satisfaction that the secretary of state also confirmed the continuation of aid to the resistance.

We are aware of the damaging effect of this questioning of our UN credentials. But if this is to be the case, the supreme national council comprising all the existing forces, advocated by the Five, must be given the UN seat. If that does not happen, the status quo must be preserved. We can rely on China to oppose any other alternative.

[De Chazournes] You therefore accept the principle of this supreme national council, but the Khmer Rouge, your allies, are dragging their feet....
[Son Sann] We accept it provided the supreme national council is really the symbol of independence, unity, and national sovereignty. It must therefore represent all Cambodians. This means that the Khmer Rouge must participate in it.

[De Chazournes] That is the problem. In Tokyo in June, you accepted a bipartite composition of the supreme national council (six seats for Phnom Penh and six for the three opposition factions) but the Khmer Rouge

rejected that consensus. Has their position become more moderate as a result of the ground they have constantly gained in the military sphere?
[Son Sann] China can have a decisive influence. But it was Prince Sihanouk and I who, at last year's Paris conference, proposed setting up a quadripartite provisional government of national unity. However, it was Hun Sen (head of the pro-Vietnamese Phnom Penh government) who rejected that proposal.

It is the Cambodians themselves who must return to the path of peace. That is why Hun Sen might possibly be invited to join the next meeting of our coalition. We must break the deadlock before the next meeting of the Five scheduled to be held in New York at the end of August. We must find a political solution while there is still time. It is true that the Khmer Rouge are gaining ground. The pro-Vietnamese regime is now a besieged, corrupt regime facing economic collapse. Hun Sen must realize that no military solution is possible. We must now find a solution which is acceptable to all.

[De Chazournes] What role can the blue helmets play?
[Son Sann] The United Nations must ensure the maintenance of peace, and supervise the disarmament of all the existing forces and the withdrawal of all the Vietnamese forces. Contrary to what Hanoi states, there are still between 45,000 and 47,000 Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia. Finally, the United Nations will have to make it possible to hold free elections.

Sihanouk Agrees to Meeting

AU2307113690 Paris AFP in English 1107 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Paris, July 23 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk agreed Monday to a request by the prime minister of the Cambodian tripartite coalition, Son Sann, for a meeting of the Cambodian opposition in Paris on July 30 to discuss Washington's change in position on Cambodia. Mr. Sonn Sann also said Monday that he had invited "the Phnom Penh party" to join the meeting on August 1 and will call for a meeting of the four Cambodian parties with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council at the end of August in New York.

Mr. Son Sann had announced his intention to request the meeting after Secretary of State James Baker announced Wednesday that the United States was discontinuing its support for the tripartite coalition seat at the United Nations and opening talks with Vietnam.

Prince Sihanouk, the leader of the coalition, agreed to the meeting in a telegram that arrived in Paris on Sunday night but was dated July 23. The former Cambodian monarch agreed that Mr. Son Sann "could invite" Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and Prince Norodom Rannaridh, Prince Sihanouk's son, "for a working meeting in Paris." But the prince, who is currently in Pyongyang, said he would not be taking part personally.

One of the goals of the July 30 and August 1 meetings that he will propose to Phnom Penh is a meeting of the four Cambodian factions with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council when they hold their sixth meeting on Cambodia August 27-28 in New York, Mr. Son Sann said.

The opposition prime minister said a solution to the Cambodian conflict depends upon the "total withdrawal" of Vietnamese troops, guarantees that the Khmer Rouge will not return to power, and free general elections. The opposition alleges that Vietnamese troops remained behind after the Hanoi announced it had completed withdrawal in September 1989.

Mr. Son Sann emphasized that the ASEAN countries (Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei) must be involved in any solution to the Cambodian problem.

Sihanouk Wants Khmer Rouge Included in Council

BK2207113890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Bangkok, July 22 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has again ruled out formation of a transitional council in Cambodia without the presence of the Khmer Rouge, the dominant force in the resistance coalition. "There is no doubt the supreme council cannot and must not be convened as long as the Khmer Rouge does not join it," he said in a statement circulated by his office here Sunday. The prince, the alliance's nominal leader, was referring to a supreme national council which he agreed to form in a pact signed last month with Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen.

In his statement, Prince Sihanouk, one of two non-communist leaders allied to the Khmer Rouge in the guerrilla coalition fighting the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government, made no reference to the U.S. decision to withdraw support for the U.N. seat occupied by the resistance. Under its new policy, Washington is also to open a dialogue with Hanoi on Cambodia.

The prince, Cambodia's former monarch, who is currently in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, has already strongly condemned the decision announced last week by Secretary of State James Baker, describing it as "act of grave injustice."

The pact signed last month in Tokyo between Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk, which also calls for cessation of hostilities, has been rejected by the Khmer Rouge, a radical Marxist group which was ousted from power in Cambodia 11-1/2 years ago when Vietnam invaded the country to install a client government in Phnom Penh. The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, objecting essentially to the agreement because it is bilateral, later issued a rival plan renewing the faction's consistent demand that power be equally shared by all warring Cambodian factions during a transition period.

Indonesia

Military Launches 'Major Operation' in Aceh

BK2207041490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0312 GMT 22 Jul 90

[By Alain Boebion]

[Text] Lhokseumawe, Indonesia, July 22 (AFP)—Indonesia's military has launched a major operation in Aceh to crack down on armed groups that have been increasingly active in the last two months in the northwestern province. At least 3,000 troops have been deployed in the province, mainly in the Lokhseumawe area, which is both a major petrochemical center and a Moslem fundamentalist stronghold with a long tradition of resistance to colonial and central powers.

Late in the week, police and troops could be seen manning blockades along the principal road between Banda Aceh and Medan, the capitals of Aceh and North Sumatra provinces respectively, located about 600 kilometres (360 miles) apart. Troops in combat gear systematically stopped buses, trucks and private cars, scrupulously searching occupants and making identity checks.

The military presence was especially visible Thursday and Friday on the last 100-kilometre (60-mile) stretch to Lhokseumawe, site of the Arun refinery and a vast Mobil Oil Co. complex. The refinery accounts for half of the country's production of liquefied gas.

Jakarta has yet to make a statement on its military operation in Aceh and maintains that no particular threat exists there, describing the armed groups as "criminal" bands counting no more than 30 members in total. The bands—which are officially described as security disturbing groups (GPK), a term generally used to describe separatist groups—have assassinated at least 30 troops and as many civilians, mainly settlers from Java.

Security forces killed at least eight GPK men this week, according to official figures, including two last Monday in a Banda Aceh market.

Witnesses said GPK activities are concentrated around the city of Lhokseumawe and in two small towns about 160 kilometres (100 miles) on either side. Provincial officials describe the situation as "serious and worrying."

National, regional and local authorities deny that these "criminal activities" are religiously or politically motivated, linking them instead to drug-trafficking and organized crime. But on these latest developments that started in mid-May, barely two weeks after police destroyed some 500 tons of marijuana in a major anti-drug operation, some local officials are refusing to toe the government line.

General Abdullah Muda, provincial leader of the ruling Golkar Party, said in an interview that the GPK were more than "criminals." "Their philosophy, 'One Nation—Aceh, One Religion—Islam' has no chance of being accepted by people indoctrinated by pancasila (the state ideology)," he said.

Daud Mansour, a leader of the Moslem PPP [United Development Party] party, which lost the majority it previously had in the 1987 general elections, said he was convinced that "a foreign hand, perhaps the Aceh/Sumatra National Liberation Front," was behind the attacks, which he described as "very serious." "The army is having trouble acting because GPK (activists) are assimilated with the population," he said.

But both men inisisted in separate interviews that "the problem will be solved shortly," a view echoed by military sources in Jakarta who insist "the criminals will be wiped out."

The regional military commander, General Pramono, told a group of Aceh political, military, religious and civil leaders gathered at the governor's home Tuesday that the Armed Forces were giving themselves until December to resolve the issue. Gen. Pramono also announced the deployment of five battalions to reinforce two permanent battalions of 600 troops each, an informed source said. Of the five battalions, two will guard Lhokseumawe's petrochemical installations and foreign community, the same source said. That community comprises scores of families linked to various petroleum companies, cloistered in luxurious complexes and protected by barbed-wire fences and armed soldiers. Two battalions have been deployed in neighbouring Pidie and Langsa, while the fifth is responsible for security in Banda Aceh.

In Lhokseumawe, where foreign companies have told employees to stay in at night and observe security precautions, a number of expatriates denied having received any "direct threats" but acknowledged "a certain anxiety."

Laos

Paper Views U.S. Policy Change on Cambodia

BK2207055590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 21 Jul 90

[PASASON feature: "Facts About Situation in Cambodia"; date not given]

[Text] The UN Security Council meeting on the Cambodia issue has been closed. A joint statement was issued following the meeting. The statement noted that the various Cambodian factions should put an end to the war and then turn to holding talks. The UN Security Council has reported that much progress has been achieved in this meeting. However, as the Cambodia issue is a delicate issue, time is needed to settle it.

In recent days, western news sources have systematically carried news reports on the attacks launched against the Phnom Penh government by the Khmer Rouge. Judging from the reports, it seems that the Phnom Penh government is being shaken by the Khmer Rouge. It can be said that it is the traditional practice of the Khmer Rouge to make an utterance in coordination with the western news sources prior to a conference on Cambodia. As is known, another international conference on Cambodia will be held in Paris in the near future. Noteworthy is the upcoming UN General Assembly session which is to decide on the rights to the Cambodian seat in the United Nations.

The true situation in Cambodia remains tranquil. The government of the State of Cambodia has remained in power and has effectively launched an offensive to control the entire Cambodian territory. Recently, General Tie Banh, national defense minister of the State of Cambodia, held a news conference in Phnom Penh to publicize the military situation in Cambodia, in particular the changing situation in Kompong Thom and Kampot provinces where, he said, the Pol Pot forces have mainly carried out activities on a small scale, and not a large scale as they have exaggeratedly claimed. In the news conference, he has denied a report on the seizure of Kompong Thom town by the Khmer Rouge on 17 June.

He said: It is true that the enemy forces launched an attack in an area in Kompong Thom Province, but they could not move forward to reach the provincial town. They were intercepted by the government and local troops, as a result of which, they were compelled to retreat and left behind some 112 dead bodies. Regarding the report on the attack on the train in Kampot Province by the Khmer Rouge, the national defense minister said: It was just an act of looting foodstuffs. Similar acts also took place earlier in Kompong Trach District, Kampot Province, during which more than 100 passengers were killed and a large quantity of their property was seized. He has also denied as groundless the report carried by the enemy side claiming that it has captured Sisophon district town in Banteay Meanchey Province and Takeo district town.

The aforesaid military activities of the Khmer Rouge have not benefitted the settlement of the Cambodian problem. Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as American politicians and intellectuals, have strongly opposed such acts of the Khmer Rouge. They called on the government with Bush as president to change the policy on Cambodia. After attending the UN Security Council meeting in Paris, U.S. State Secretary James Baker then announced a new policy on Cambodia on the morning of 18 July, saying that the United States will open direct talks with Vietnam and Cambodia soon.

Baker further said in his announcement that the United States has for a long time pursued the foreign policy on Cambodia, with the following two purposes—the withdrawal of foreign troops from Cambodia and the prevention of the Khmer Rouge from returning to power again. He has noted that the first purpose has been fulfilled. This is the first time that the United States has admitted that all Vietnamese troops have been withdrawn from Cambodia. As for the second purpose, it has not been fulfilled yet, because the Khmer Rouge has refused to hold talks on ending the war. The United States, therefore, deems it necessary to pursue the new policy by turning to directly holding talks with Vietnam and the Phnom Penh government. Last week, the United States and the Phnom Penh government cooperated, for the first time, in searching for the remains of American soldiers missing in action during the Indochinese war. The United States has also announced on the occasion that it will render humanitarian aid to the Phnom Penh government and that it will withdraw the rights of the Democratic Kampuchea government on the occupation of the UN seat. As for the question on how the Cambodia issue will be after this, this matter should be watched.

Party Secretary Meets NHAN DAN Delegation

BK2107053090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Yesterday morning, Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, received, at the guest hall of the Council of Ministers in Vientiane, a delegation from NHAN DAN, organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, led by Ha Dang, member of the CPV Central Committee and head of the NHAN DAN editorial staff.

The meeting proceeded in a warm atmosphere of Lao-Vietnamese special friendship. During the meeting, Somlat Chanthamat welcomed the NHAN DAN delegation's visit to Laos. He said: The visit will contribute to further enhancing the time-honored fine, special relations and the all-around cooperation between the two newspapers in the interest of the modification cause in each country and the fulfillment of the newspaper tasks in the new stage of revolution.

Philippines

Communists' Actions Against Government Continue

Offer Truce, Kill Policeman

HK2107081990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Manila, July 21 (AFP)—The Philippine Communist rebel high command Saturday offered a unilateral truce with government forces after the Luzon earthquake, but its urban guerrillas here killed a police officer in an ambush.

The New People's Army (NPA) general command said in a statement that "territorial commands can issue a temporary unilateral cease-fire" in Manila as well as the two most devastated areas, central and northern Luzon. The NPA also said it had told its forces to conduct rescue and disaster-control projects "wherever the conditions permit" while remaining on guard against attack by security forces.

"It may be necessary to carry out this mass work anonymously, so as not to provoke encounters," it said. But as news agencies received the statement, purportedly issued to NPA field commands by radio, their guerilla unit in Manila, the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB), killed a police lieutenant and two other men in an ambush early Saturday in suburban Pasig. The ABB issued a statement claiming responsibility and accusing the victim, Lieutenant Antonio Benavides of Manila's eastern police district, of running a criminal syndicate involved in smuggling, drug trafficking and robbery. Police confirmed that Lt. Bienavides and two other policemen, Danilo Guanio and Jing Mellaza, were shot dead in their car. Another policeman, Willy Velasquez, was wounded.

Four to five men, armed with an M-16 rifle and .45 caliber and 9 millimeter pistols, were involved in the ambush, police said, adding that they had no suspects yet. The ABB said Lt. Benavides was killed by their assassins early Saturday while he was escorting a container van of contraband. Police said they had no knowledge that they were escorting anything. The ambush appeared to have been planned long before. The ABB often takes days, if it ever does so, to issue a formal statement claiming responsibility for any of the more than 200 assassinations it has carried out here since 1987.

On Friday, rightist rebels behind bloody coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino also declared a truce with the government and offered their "expertise and resources" to the ongoing relief work, but also called on Mrs Aquino to cease pursuit operations against them. Rebel leader Gregorio Honasan said in a signed statement that they were declaring "a temporary and unilateral stop to our struggle against the Aquino government in this time of national emergency." Three days before the quake six bombs rocked Manila, causing property damage but no casualties. The government blamed coup plotters for the explosions but a spokesman for the rightist rebels denied responsibility for the blasts.

'Hit Squad' Ambush Disclosed

HK2307025790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Jul 90 p 8

[By Vic Vega]

[Text] The Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) of the New People's Army (NPA) will retaliate against government soldiers for the death of two suspected ABB symphatizers during a recent funeral march.

This was disclosed by police and military intelligence agents the other day following a report that the ABB will conduct ambuscades [ambushes] against members of the North Sector Command (NSC) of the Capital Regional Command (Capcom). The report said the ABB, the top communist "hit squad" of the NPA operating in Metro Manila, will stage grenade attacks on Capcom mobile cars. The ABB commanders, the intelligence report said, had agreed that the operation will be launch[ed] after the communist party congress which is reportedly being held in an undisclosed part of the country.

Weapons for Attacks Seized

HK2307030390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Jul 90 p 12

[By Efren P. Molina]

[Text] Balanga, Bataan—Troopers of the 161st PC [Philippine Constabulary] Company led by Capt. [Captain] Danilo R. Briones seized yesterday high-powered guns in a house owned allegedly by a messenger in the mayor's office of Orion, this province.

Lt. Col. [Lieutenant Colonel] Enrique B. Galang Jr., Bataan PC-INP [Integrated National Police] commander, identified the houseowner messenger as Rogelio Sanchez who, he said, was finance committee head of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) committee in Orion. He was known as "Ka [Comrade] Rogel," Galang said. Sanchez told PC agents during investigation at Camp Tolentino that the guns were stored in his house by New People's Army (NPA) rebels and were to be used by them in planned attacks on government forces.

In a report to Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Manuel F. Bruan, Central Luzon PC-INP commander, Galang said Briones and his men seized from Sanchez's house Armalite rifles, grenades, radio sets, subversive documents, and plans to recruit members.

Sanchez said Rufi Manrique, alias "Ka Kim," North Bataan district party committee chairman of the communist movement and former spokesman of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Bataan, was supposed to lead the NPA attacks. Earlier, the Briones' troops and policemen under Lt. [Lieutenant] Leslie Castillo, police station commander of Pilar, had raided a suspected NPA safe house at barangay Wakas Norte in Pilar and captured George Punzalan and Willy Calimbas, members of the Pilar section party committee. Galang said charges will be filed with the prosecutor's office against Sanchez, Punzalan, and Calimbas.

Free 15 Captives 20 Jul

HK2307030590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jul 90 p 6

[By staff member Carol Arguillas]

[Text] Davao City—Fifteen soldiers and paramilitary men held hostage since April 22 by the New People's Army in Surigao del Sur were finally freed at 5 p.m. Friday. All were pronounced in good health.

They were turned over to Tandag Bishop Erineo Amantillo, representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and their families by renegade priest Frank Navarro. The soldiers were Technical Sergeants Sarbon Facundo, Francisco Laput and Rodolfo Lucero; Sergeants Rogelio Dobluis and Rex Delgade; Corpoal Hernani Derequito; C2Cs Richard Daraman, Eliazar Capuyan and Nelson Bautista; and Pfc. [Private First Class] Eduardo Francisco. The paramilitary men were Victor Flores, Calixto Bumaat, Carlos Cubil, and Alberto Lamelo, all members of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu). One was unnamed.

All had been taken prisoner after a battle on April 22 in which 22 on their side had been killed. Reports from the office of the governor in Surigao del Sur said the hostages were released in the same hinterland spot near Diatagon where six hostages had been released last year. The National Democratic Front (NDF) in a statement said the hostages had freed cleared of "crimes committed against the people." Still being awaited was the release of two foreign aid workers—Timothy Swanson, an American Peace Corps volunteer, and Fumio Mizuno, a Japanese, both captives of insurgents in Negros Occidental.

Unknown Assailants Kill Three Pasig Policemen

HK2207013690 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Five unidentified men ambushed and killed three policemen from Pasig at 0600 [2100 GMT] this morning. The victims were identified as Lieutenant Antonio Benavidez, Private First Class Jim Galleza and PFC Boyet Gono.

According to investigations, the five assailants were clad in fatigue uniforms and carrying M-16 rifles, and .45 and .9 mm caliber guns. Witnesses said the suspects fled the scene after the incident.

416 Moro Liberation Rebels Surrender in Manila

HK2207013290 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Four hundred-sixteen members of the Moro National Liberation Front Metro Manila urban command surrendered to the military today. The command was led by Commander Saning Magud, alias Commander Sonny. They turned themselves over to Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos at Camp Aguinaldo. They also surrendered their guns, dynamite and other high-powered firearms.

In an interview, Commander Sonny cited the reason for their surrender:

[Begin recording in English] We believe in the sincerity of the present administration in fairly treating the rebel returnees. We are convinced the present government really is sincere. [end recording]

ILO Urges Disbanding of Civilian Armed Forces

HK2307032190 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 23 Jul 90 p 12

[Text] Cases of violence against laborers aired before the International Labor Organization (ILO) by labor unions have prompted the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association to urge the Philippine Government to disband the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGUs).

In addition, the ILO committee also recommended the removal of the Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary (SCAA), made up of workers recruited by the military from private companies and plantations to assist in civil disturbance operations.

In its May-June session, the committee noted that CAFGUs and the SCAA have been widely involved in documented cases of direct violence and indirect pressure on labor unions. In addition, the committee deemed the roles of these groups as ambiguous, prompting its recommendation for these groups' removal.

The ILO had earlier asked Government to reply to accusations raised by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) [1 May Movement], the Trade Union congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and other labor organizations that CAFGUs are allegedly engaged in an "anti-union role" due to numerous accounts of murdered and missing union members.

In reply, Government said investigations were still being conducted on cases raised before the ILO. In the case of the CAFGUs, Government said these units are only "spontaneous civilian reactions to curb criminality and illegal and violent activities of insurgents." CAFGUs, according to Government, are "unarmed and their activities regulated and monitored by the Government through Peace and Order Councils."

While the ILO welcomed Government's commitment in continuing investigations on such cases, it also pointed out that well-documented cases of direct violence and indirect pressure by these para-military groups exist, and—despite Government's denial—they "indeed appear to be well-armed and acting with relative impunity."

Congress Opens Fourth Session Amid 'Cooperation'

HK2307031790 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jul 90 p 7

[By staff member Johanna Son]

[Text] Congress begins its fourth year in office today amid newfound cooperation between the Senate and House of Representatives and a mood of austerity in the aftermath of this country's most destructive earthquake in living memory.

The Senate will open its fourth regular session at 10 a.m. At 4 p.m., senators will join congressmen to hear President Aquino's traditional State of the Nation address at the House of Representatives. Asked how he expected Congress ties with the Palace to be after irritants such as Mrs. Aquino's creation of 'Kabisig' [Partnership], [Senator Jovito] Salonga said they were "cordial in many respects and in some marked by creative tension, which should be good." Sen. [Senator] Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

suggested that in the wake of the devastation Congress keep its opening rites "at its simplest best."

In a letter to Salonga and Speaker Ramon Mitra, Pimentel proposed that Congress forego the traditional cocktails after the opening of session and donate to earthquake victims whatever sum budgeted for it. Salonga said the Senate would have a "session characterized by austerity." Sen. Orlando Mercado has suggested that Congress study legislation providing for the floating of reconstruction bonds to raise billions of pesos needed to repair earthquake damage.

Recently, Salonga and Mitra met and hammered out a "common agenda"—including electoral reform in time for the 1992 polls—to guide Congress through its last two years in office. The Senate, led by its finance committee, will scrutinize line by line the 1991 budget, although similar efforts in the past have been hampered by sheer lack of time. The framing of priorities marked a renewed effort toward cooperation by the two houses of Congress, after past years often marred by bickering and disagreement over priority bills.

President Aquino herself had expressed dissatisfaction with lawmakers and created her Kabisig, meant as a popular-based movement, displeasing many members of the pro-Aquino coalition. Salonga, after speaking with Mitra and President Aquino, told reporters the chamber would hasten to pass the local government code, a new foreign service act and a "comprehensive" antipollution code. Majority Floor Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr. pressed for the passage of his bill providing for special economic zones, a policy review by Congress of the import liberalization policy and deregulation of the oil industry.

The Senate will also resume debate on the logging ban bill, on which senators are still split. Other bills pending final approval in both houses are the conference committee reports on the Philippine National Police bill and the bill abolishing the Metro Manila Commission. Salonga also pressed the House of Representatives to act on Senate bills penalizing plunder and coup d'etat. With the serious damage brought by the earthquake to the Philippine Veterans Bank building, which houses the offices of 13 senators, the chamber decided to put a skeleton staff in one committee room to assist senators during session.

Foreign Debt Interest Payments at $2.37 Billion

HK2007034390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Jul 90 p 25

[Text] The country forks out $2.37 billion this year for interest payments on its $26-billion foreign debt.

On a new basis, or against projected foreign loan inflow of $1.565 billion, this resource transfer means an $805-million drawdown. Data made available to BUSINESS BULLETIN show that the estimated gross resource outflow this year will be $50 million or 2.066 percent lower than the total debt service payments of $2.42 billion made last year. The projected net resource transfer (NRT) will likewise reflect a reduction of $586 million or a hefty 42.1 percent from last year's total net transfer of $1.391 billion. In spite of this decline in the resource transfer, though, government policymakers will continue to be pressured into seeking ways of reducing further the amount of funds being earmarked annually for debt servicing.

The House of Representatives has threatened to pass its own version of a bill that will put a "cap" on the debt service, limit the amount to 15-20 percent of preceding years' merchandise export receipts, despite strong opposition from the Executive branch of the government. The Senate had earlier approved a similar measure sponsored by Sen. [Senator] Alberto G. Romulo.

Savings to be generated by the debt service cap bills are proposed to be used for funding various development-oriented projects aimed at licking the high incidence of poverty in the country.

On a gross, basis, total foreign exchange outflow for loan interest payments from 1986 to 1990 is projected to reach a whopping $11.18 billion.

The aggregate net resource transfer for the same five-year period is placed at $7.33 billion. Official sources said that the reduction in this year's gross and net resource transfers stemmed mainly from the increased flow of official credits, coupled with the debt initiative and the debt-to-equity swan program. Partly responsible for this downtrend in the resource transfer was the government's decision to broaden the definition of capital flows to include net foreign investments, particularly returning flight capital, and official bilateral grants.

Thailand

Column Discusses New U.S. Policy on Cambodia

BK2107092390 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 21 Jul 90 p 2

["World Window" column by Sunthon Wathi: "The United States and the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] The sudden U.S. announcement, which said that the United States will withdraw its recognition of the coalition government of three Cambodian factions, can be considered a major surprise to international politics. The United States also intends to have a direct dialogue with Vietnam on a settlement of the Cambodian problem.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's announcement in Paris was a surprise because it was sudden and unexpected. But the announcement followed Baker's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and thus leads many people to suspect whether the two superpowers had reached some kind of secret agreement on Cambodia.

Mr. Baker's announcement constitutes a major change in U.S. policy on the 11-year-old Cambodian problem. In the past 11 years dating back to the U.S. defeat in Vietnam, the United States was the main free world activist isolating Hanoi. It severed diplomatic and trade ties with Vietnam and became an anti-Vietnamese hardliner after the Vietnamese aggression against Cambodia. It played the role of a major arms, financial, and diplomatic supporter of Prince Sihanouk's Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK].

Baker's announcement does not say all ties with the Cambodian resistance government will be severed. Rather, it is only that U.S. recognition of that government in the United Nations will be withdrawn. It does, however, say that U.S. support for the noncommunist CGDK factions will continue. This means U.S. assistance for the Son Sann and Sihanouk factions will continue, while there will be none for the Khmer Rouge.

Another major change is the U.S. readiness to open dialogue with Vietnam as opposed to the previous longstanding U.S. policy toward that country, on grounds that Vietnamese influence can be used to pressure Phnom Penh to end the Cambodian conflict.

Most people regard the new U.S. policy as a major reversal on Washington's part, but the United States has informed ASEAN that its new policy amounts to a change of tactics on the Cambodian problem, not strategy. The United States is not "killing its friends" as Prince Sihanouk claims, in order to recognize the Phnom Penh government and restore relations with Vietnam, as the Cambodian resistance factions fear. Washington claims it merely wants to cut off the Khmer Rouge, out of a concern that they might return to power. This U.S. claim appears to make sense.

The Khmer Rouge are obviously enjoying advantages in the battlefield as their military exploits are reported virtually everyday. If this continues unhindered, the Khmer Rouge might be able to invade Phnom Penh some day.

Sitthi Leaves for Indonesia, Notes U.S. Policy

BK2307073290 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Before leaving for Indonesia to attend the 24-25 July ASEAN foreign ministers meeting, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila told reporters at Bangkok Airport that ASEAN will issue a joint communique on the Cambodian problem. ASEAN countries will continue to support Prince Sihanouk and will push for an earlier comprehensive solution among the Khmer factions, including the establishment of a national supreme council in Cambodia before the upcoming UN General Assembly.

The foreign minister said that ASEAN countries will continue to uphold their former stand which they have persistently followed over the past 10 years. He also believed that the UN seat of the three Cambodian factions should not be changed as proposed by the United States. He also disagreed with the U.S. proposal to leave Cambodia's UN seat vacant. He said that in his meeting with the PRC ambassador to Thailand, the Chinese side disagreed with the U.S. proposal. The foreign minister also disclosed that Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan had given him a directive in attending the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting that Thailand must uphold ASEAN's stand.

Asked if the four Cambodian factions will meet in Thailand, the foreign minister replied that so far Thailand has not been approached for such a meeting. However, we desire for a meeting among the Cambodian factions and want such a meeting to be held in Indonesia. We have discussed this with Indonesia.

Embassies Abroad on Alert After Muslim Threat

BK2107025990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Thai intelligence officials are investigating a report that a previously unknown Muslim militant group in Turkey has threatened to sabotage the Thai embassy and airline there if Thai authorities took action against rioting Shi'ite Muslims in southern Thailand. National Security Council Secretary General Suwit Sutthanukun said yesterday government agencies which handle security affairs were trying to verify the reported threat. Meanwhile, Thai embassies and other establishments abroad have been instructed to step up security to prevent possible attacks. "The sabotage threat is considered a matter of grave concern for the Thai government," Suwit said. "We are trying to find out whether such a letter had actually been received."

Bangkok-based REUTERS correspondents said they were told by their counterparts in Ankara, the Turkish capital, that they had received a letter signed by a group identifying itself as the Brotherhood of Martyrs. In the letter, the group said it would attack Thai establishments in Turkey if Thai authorities prosecuted Shi'ite Muslims wanted for instigating a riot in the southern province of Pattani in June.

Pattani provincial authorities have issued arrest warrants for 15 members of a Muslim militant group who are believed to be behind the riot at the Kruze mosque in Pattani's provincial seat. They are accused of criticizing the monarchy, sedition and assault. Police said the suspects had been involved in organizing a serious of rallies in Pattani that culminated in the mosque riot, in which a deputy provincial police chief and another police officer were attacked by a group of demonstrators.

Suwit said Thai military and police have also stepped up security to deal with more riots and possible sabotage in the Muslim-dominated southern provinces—Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, Satun, and Songkhla—as well as in Bangkok.

Deputy Army Commander in Chief Gen [General] Wimon Wongwanit also said yesterday the Fourth Army Region, in charge of security in the South, had been put on standby to assist local police maintain peace in the South. [as published] Gen Wimon said he believed the sabotage threat was made by a group of Muslim secessionists with the aim of advancing their cause by creating distrust between the Buddhist and Muslim communities in the South.

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary for Interior Anan Anantakun said at Parliament yesterday that provincial authorities had intensified security at government offices and stepped up patrols in southern provinces. But he said the combined force of military and police personnel had been instructed to treat local Muslims with respect and to try to avoid applying force in maintaining order during any future Muslim gatherings.

No-Confidence Debate Ends; Vote Scheduled

BK2107014090 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The meeting of the House of Representatives to conduct a no-confidence debate against the entire cabinet, which began on the morning of 18 July, ended at 2340 yesterday. Yesterday's meeting began at 1340. At 2315 yesterday, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan summed up the opposition's no-confidence debate as a procedure under the democratic system which gave the government an opportunity to clarify questions for the benefit of the nation as a whole. The prime minister said most of the allegations made by the opposition concerned mistakes made by the previous government and issues that have not yet arisen. The allegations were vague and not supported by evidence. The prime minister said if the opposition supplies, evidence he will immediately punish the offending officials. Any officials whose activities indicate corrupt practices will also be punished.

The prime minister said he has sincerely devoted himself to administration for the benefit of the country, religion, and the monarchy, and he has never imposed his will on the bureaucracy.

At 2340, the members of parliament belonging to the government parties proposed an end to the no-confidence debate. Before the debate concluded, the house president asked the house members to meet at 1000 today to vote on the no-confidence motion.

Chatchai on Ranger Corps, Opposition Boycott

BK2307135690 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] This afternoon, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan answered questions from newsmen after chairing the meeting of the Civil Service Commission. He denied a report that the Ranger Volunteer Corps might be dissolved, saying operations of the Ranger Volunteer Corps will not be dissolved and adding that an increase in welfare benefits to ranger volunteers will be considered because while they perform duties similar to soldiers, they receive much less welfare assistance than soldiers. Asked whether the size of the corps might be reduced as their missions decreases, the prime minister said he cannot answer that question until after consultation with staff officials.

Referring to the opposition bloc's reported plan to boycott house meetings, the prime minister said the opposition has to perform its duties. How could it ignore its parliamentary duties? A duty of the opposition bloc in accordance with the mandate given by the people is to oversee and monitor the government's performance of its duties.

Vietnam

Further Response to U.S. Decision on Cambodia

Policy 'Better Late Than Never'

BK2007130590 Hanoi International Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to the Voice of America, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker declared that the U.S. has changed its policy toward Cambodia in order to prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning to power there. Baker also announced possible dialogue between the U.S. and Vietnam on the Cambodian issue as Vietnam has withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia.

These are positive wishes and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach welcomed this U.S. attitude considering it a favorable condition for an early solution to the Cambodian issue and the restoration of normal relations between Vietnam and the United States.

The decision was made a bit late, but better late than never, and in this situation it was significant. As everyone knows, there remains a deadlock in the settlement of the Cambodian issue due to some countries' support for the Khmer Rouge and even an incitement to the Khmer Rouge to escalate civil war in Cambodia. This decision has a great impact on those who still back the Khmer Rouge, and if it is actually realized, it would isolate those who voiced their support for this force. This decision also met the aspiration and demand of public opinion in the U.S.A and in many other countries.

Previously, U.S. policy on the Cambodian issue was not clear and sometimes negative, and it was not welcomed in American political circles and by the people who have many times urged the U.S. Administration to change its policy, thus contributing to the settlement to the conflict in Cambodia. That is why this decision was immediately hailed by American congressmen of the Democratic Party.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze approved the decision and affirmed that it would help narrow the differences between Moscow and Washington. However, the decision was only made two days ago.

We all welcome this positive step of the U.S. Administration and we hope that the Bush administration would realize its policy by its concrete acts. It was not by chance that after welcoming Baker's statement, American congressmen called on the government to start direct talks with the Phnom Penh government. If the U.S. Administration continues to come forth with more positive decisions, it will make important contributions to the settlement of the Cambodian issue.

Issue at 'Stalemate'

OW2007191690 Hanoi International Service in Mandarin 1200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to a VOA report, U.S. Secretary of State Baker disclosed in Paris on 18 July that the United States has changed its policy toward Cambodia to prevent the Khmer Rouge's return to power in that country. Baker also said that the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia has made it possible for the United States to [words indistinct]. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach welcomes the U.S. move. [passage indistinct]

The present reality is that some countries are continuing to support the Khmer Rouge and are prompting it to intensify the civil war in Cambodia. At the same time, the settlement of the Cambodian issue is at a stalemate. The U.S. (?intention) to prevent the Khmer Rouge's return to power in Cambodia will have a great impact on countries supporting the Khmer Rouge. If the United States wants to [words indistinct] with the current move, it surely will make the Khmer Rouge commanders [words indistinct].

The U.S. decision was made in light of public opinion at home and in many other countries in the world. For a long time, U.S. policy toward Cambodia was not [words indistinct]. U.S. media and people did not approve of the policy, repeatedly demanding that the U.S. Government change its policy to facilitate a settlement of the Cambodian issue as soon as possible. The current U.S. move to prevent the Khmer Rouge's return to power in Cambodia conforms to the demand of U.S. public opinion. It was for this reason that members of the U.S. Congress and [words indistinct] of the Democratic Party expressed their support for the move as soon as the U.S. secretary of state announced it.

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze also welcomed the U.S. move right away, and emphasized that it will help reduce differences between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The United States made the announcement just two days ago, so, [words indistinct]. However, people continue to welcome and show concern for the new U.S. move over the Cambodian issue. Public opinion in the United States and in other parts of the world hopes that the U.S. Government and President Bush will achieve [words indistinct] with concrete actions. While welcoming the government's new decision, congressional Democrats are calling on the Bush administration to begin direct talks with the Phnom Penh government. If the United States continues to make positive [word indistinct] over the Cambodia issue, it will be able to make even more important contributions to the settlement of the Cambodian issue.

PRC's 'Dissatisfaction' Noted

OW2107161790 Hanoi International Service in Mandarin 1200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] While the governments of many countries and world public opinion welcome the U.S. decision to withdraw recognition of the seat of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea in the United Nations, the Chinese Government has expressed dissatisfaction with the U.S. change of position on the Cambodia issue. Jin Guihua, spokesman of Chinese Foreign Ministry, said that China will continue to extend military aid to the Cambodian resistance forces.

American Organization Presents Medical Aid

BK2107162390 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 21—A ceremony was held here yesterday to receive a quantity of medical equipment worth 3 million U.S. dollars as aid to a number of hospitals in Hanoi from the 'Friendship Bridge' Organization in Colorado, the United States.

The aid included such modern equipment as hemodyalizer, anaesthetizer, mobile x-ray apparatus and incubator, and a number of medicine books.

Another shipment of aid is expected to arrive in Vietnam early next year.

Measures To Counter Economic Crimes Urged

BK2007141590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Essay by Ngo Tu Nam of the party Central Committee's Internal Affairs Department: "Those Obstacles in the Fight Against Economic Crimes"]

[Summary] "With the renovative atmosphere created following the sixth party congress, we have been able to motivate the masses to honestly and publicly denounce those party cadres and members who have abused their influential positions by engaging in corruption and bribery, who have been deviant, who have deliberately misinterpreted the law, who have enriched themselves illegally, or who have abused their power and position to vindictively mistreat or prosecute the masses. These acts have resulted in various serious consequences which, among other things, have caused a decline in the masses' confidence in the party and state and serious losses to the state's material bases. This is one of the causes of the worsening socioeconomic situation and of the growing difficulties in the lives of the laboring people."

There has been cooperation between various responsible organs, both at the central and local levels, in combating crimes. Many cases have been prosecuted, especially those violating socialist property and involving people in influential positions. Typical of these cases are the following:

—The case of Mai Huong Incorporated, which was headed by Hoang Thi Xuan, in Vinh Phu involving many provinces and cities and many cadres belonging to numerous public organs. It is reported that "Hoang Thi Xuan established contact with many cadres in charge of issuing pay checks and, together with these people, stole billions of dong from the state by means of fraud."

—The case of Nguyen Tai Tuan, deputy director of the Ha Son Binh Industrial and Commercial Bank, "who accepted a bribe of 11 million dong and six grams of gold in exchange for the illegal issuance of bank loans, resulting in a loss of 1.8 billion dong to the state."

—The case of Pham Thi Tuyet, treasurer of the 218th Road and Bridge Enterprise in Ha Son Binh, "who embezzled 70 million dong and set fire to his financial office to get rid of the evidence."

—The case of Huynh Vinh Phuoc, aka Binh Hot, in Kien Giang "who led a large-scale gang of smugglers which, in conjunction with cadres in influential positions, carried out cross-border smuggling activities for many years before being stopped. Millions of U.S. dollars, or billions of Vietnamese dong, worth of contraband and hundreds of taels of gold have been seized."

It is noted that "only those deviant people of lower echelons have been prosecuted while those of higher echelons have not been brought to justice."

In order to step up the fight against crimes, especially economic crimes, public security, auditing, and juridical organs must promptly bring important cases to court for use as a deterrence. "It is necessary to severely punish those abusing their influential positions and those whose deviant actions have caused losses to socialist property. This must be done to restore the people's confidence in party and state organs." Cadres in influential positions must refrain from using their status to affect the pace or outcome of the court proceedings against these cases.

Attention must be paid to the welfare—such as wages and per diem—of members of various public security, auditing, and juridical organs. It is suggested that responsible state organs look into this problem in order to promptly come up with appropriate measures.

Australia

Hawke's Constitutional Reform Call Welcomed

BK2007132490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 19 Jul 90

[By Robert Holloway]

[Text] Sydney, July 20 (AFP)—Australians prominent in politics and industry Friday gave a largely unanimous, if cautious, welcome to Prime Minister Bob Hawke's call for a more modern constitution.

Most comments were, like Mr. Hawke's speech Thursday to the National Press Club, more specific about the economic benefits of reform than about the future shape of Australian politics.

Echoing the prime minister's goal of "national efficiency and international competitiveness," the Confederation of Australian Industry [CAI] said it was essential to include business leaders in consultations he proposed on political reform.

Chief Executive Ian Spicer said the CAI had often underlined "problems of overlap and deficiencies in the delivery of services." Mr. Spicer also criticised duplication of regulations and standards by the federal administration and six state governments which Mr. Hawke said had "balkanised" the economy.

In a series of follow-up radio interviews Friday, Mr. Hawke warned that large numbers of civil service jobs would be cut.

His proposals had nevertheless won the initial support of organised labour.

Michael Easson, secretary of the New South Wales Labor Council, said: "It is absurd that there is one national and six state industrial tribunals going their merry way of duplicating and complicating the task of sensible industrial relations." Increasingly, he said, "employers prefer to move to the federal commission where one tribunal can deal with industrial awards and agreements on a national basis."

Mr. Hawke denied Friday that his proposals were an attempt to centralise power. "This is bloody nonsense," he told Adelaide Radio. "I'm not about trying to get more power. If there are areas where it looks as though it's better to give the power or the delivery of a service back to the states, well let's do it that way."

On Thursday, Mr. Hawke envisaged a national dialogue over the coming decade to produce a "more contemporary constitution" in time for the centenary of Australia's federation in 2001.

The premier of Queensland, Wayne Goss, agreed that the 1901 constitution reflected "the needs of a sparsely populated country which was evolving out of six colonies." Those needs, he said, "are not those of a fast growing country of 17 million people looking toward the 21st century."

But Mr. Hawke told Adelaide Radio that he did not expect a major rewrite of the Constitution. "I think there are some things that can be done fairly quickly," he said, citing a referendum to extend the life of national parliaments from three to four years.

Even one of his harshest critics, former cabinet minister Clyde Cameron, described Mr. Hawke's proposals as "brilliant" and "the best possible method of getting the states in line."

A senior member of the governing Labor Party, Mr. Cameron was speaking at a meeting where he also warned Mr. Hawke that the party's left wing was strong enough to expel him from the party if he persisted with plans to privatise major state-owned firms.

Papua New Guinea

Indonesian Secessionist Leader Extradited

BK2207092490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Sydney, July 22 (AFP)—The authorities in Papua New Guinea Sunday extradited Mecki Salosa, one of Indonesia's most wanted secessionist guerrilla leaders, it was reported here.

The AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS (AAP) agency quoted separatist sources in Port Moresby as saying that Mr. Salosa was flown out of the Papua New Guinea capital on a morning flight and handed over to Indonesian authorities near the border.

Marthinus Kambu, a spokesman for the Organisasi Papua Merdeka (Free Papua Movement or OPM), said he believed Mr. Salosa would be murdered once he had been taken across the border.

The OPM is fighting for the independence of the province of Irian Jaya, in eastern Indonesia, which borders Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Salosa was arrested in Papua New Guinea in December, charged with illegal possession of weapons and jailed. His deportation follows a warning this month by Foreign Minister Michael Somare that Papua New Guinea would hand "troublemakers" back to Indonesia.

Mr. Kambu said that Mr. Salosa, the deputy leader of the OPM, was taken aboard an Air Niugini flight to Vanimo, near the border on the north coast of Papua New Guinea. He was transferred to a police van and taken to the Wutung border crossing, about an hour and a half's travel to the west.

"We believe he's on a death warrant," Mr. Kambu said. "They (the Indonesians) are not going to take him to Jayapura (the capital of Irian Jaya). It's more likely he'll be finished on the road along the way."

Mr. Kambu alleged that Mr. Salosa's extradition was part of a "bride price" for a senior Foreign Ministry official's marriage to an Indonesian woman, AAP said.